



'Hanging by Iraq barbaric': 'Mrs Thatcher wanted him alive. We sent him in a box'

Outrage at execution of Bazoft

Missile developed

LONDON, March 16, (Agencies): Iraq's execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft prompted a storm of international protest but Britain stopped short of breaking off diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called the hanging barbaric while Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told Parliament the Baghdad authorities "have blackened the name of Iraq across the world."

Britain's ambassador in Baghdad was recalled but the Iraqi envoy in London is not being asked to leave, Hurd said.

Iranian-born Bazoft, 31, who worked for Britain's Observer newspaper, was executed yesterday after being convicted of espionage. He was arrested last September for investigating into an explosion in a secret military plant southwest of Baghdad. A British nurse, Daphne

Parish, was sentenced to 15 years' jail for driving him there.

"Mrs Thatcher wanted him alive. We sent him in a box," Information Minister Latif Nasif Jassim told reporters in Baghdad, where Bazoft's body was handed to the British embassy.

A joint European Economic Community (EEC) declaration issued in Dublin said the 12 EEC members were "utterly dismayed" at the execution.

"They had appealed to the Iraqi authorities on humanitarian grounds to exercise clemency and are profoundly disappointed that this human appeal was not heeded," it said.

The EEC did not threaten reprisals but diplomats said further action was not ruled out. In a Brussels statement, the EEC's executive commission called the execution an unspeakable act.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he deeply regretted Iraq's action and the US State Department deplored what is called Iraq's "undue haste in hanging Bazoft."

Other protests came from Britain's opposition Labour Party, Observer editor Donald Treford, the International Federation Journalists and Britain's National Union of Journalists.

Bush's Ambassador in London, Azmi Shafiq Al Salhi, remained unrepresentant.

Interviewed on BBC radio, he indicated world pressure on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to halt the execution may have been counter-productive.

"Those who want clemency should say 'please' before they ask for clemency, not put pressure on my leader and my country."

Hurd told Parliament a total break in diplomatic and trade links would be counter-productive. "In fact measures of that kind would be less effective and might end up doing no harm at all to Iraq and damaging this country more," he said.

In addition to recalling the envoy, Britain also ordered home all six Iraqis attending Ministry of Defence courses. It also announced a freeze on visits by government ministers to Iraq and cancelled a trade mission.

But there was also the fate of Parish to consider when determining retaliation, diplomats said.

Bazoft, unmarried and the eldest of four children, first came to Britain in 1975. He studied at North Oxfordshire Technical

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Bazoft

WASHINGTON, March 16, (Agencies): Iraq is building a plant to manufacture uranium needed for nuclear bombs and Western companies have helped Baghdad develop missiles capable of hitting targets in the Soviet Union and Israel as well as in neighbouring Iran, a US television network said yesterday.

ABC News showed photographs and construction plans for what it said were three sites for missile development, testing and production near Baghdad.

A spokesman at the Iraqi embassy in Washington had no comment on the report.

In London, the journalist who broke the initial explosion story said today, Iraq has rebuilt the blast-wrecked secret missile research base which executed reporters Farzad Bazoft was accused of spying on.

Adel Darwish, a journalist with the London newspaper the Independent, said in a radio interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. that the base — which had been rebuilt at another site — was working at 65 per cent capacity of the original facility.

Shamir falls

First no-confidence vote in history of Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 16, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has no plans to resign despite a revolt erupting in his right-wing Likud bloc after his government's defeat in a parliamentary no-confidence vote, a Shamir aide said today.

Shamir met with Likud's government ministers, but party rivals Housing Minister David Levy and Economics Minister Yitzhak Modai, who have been trying to engineer his ouster for

Under Israeli law, President Chaim Herzog decides who should form the next government. He scheduled meetings Sunday with Labour and Likud leaders, but Israeli newspapers reported already that the 66-year-old Peres was the likely choice.

Shamir, 74, whose government was the first in Israel ever turned out in a no-confidence vote, remains caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed, a process that could take months.

Both Labour and Likud already have begun wooing ultra-orthodox religious parties that hold the balance of power for forming a new coalition.

While the crisis that brought down Shamir's government began with Labour and Likud disagreements on joining US-backed peace talks with Palestinians, the Labour victory came in horse-trading to gain the votes of religious factions.

Some Likud Knesset members suggested today that Shamir would have to step down as party leader of Likud since several religious party leaders have accused him of breaking promises to support religious legislation.

"I believe that Shamir will eventually decide to resign because he cannot form a narrow government as long as Agudat Israel opposes his leadership," said lawmaker Tzahi Hanegbi, referring to an ultra-orthodox faction that backed Labour in Thursday's vote.

The Likud legislator said possible replacements could be Levy, former trade minister Ariel Sharon or Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Israel radio reported Levy planned to meet with other Shamir rivals Saturday night in advance of another meeting of Likud ministers Sunday.

Asked if Shamir was thinking of stepping down, Achimeir replied: "I didn't even hear a hint coming out of his mouth. He will continue to lead as long as the party wants it."

Peres told Tel Aviv schoolchillers he had been opposed about 70

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months, did not attend the session.

Labour leader Shimon Peres said he hopes to form a new government with the backing of 70 members of the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament.

The Knesset, Israel's parliament yesterday passed the no-confidence motion on a 60-55 vote with five members absent. It was the first time since Israel was founded nearly 42 years ago that a parliamentary vote of no-confidence had brought down the government.



Shamir confers with Trade Minister Moshe Nissim during the Parliament session. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fire guts chemical plant in Libya

TRIPOLI, March 16, (Agencies): A fire heavily damaged the Libyan chemical plant at Rabta, a spokesman for the official Libyan news agency said yesterday.

Another Libyan official said sabotage was suspected in the blaze at the plant outside Rabta, about 60 miles (96 km) southwest of Tripoli, the capital.

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi pointed an accusatory finger at West German intelligence services after the fire at the controversial chemicals factory.

At least two people died at the plant which the United States says has started producing chemical weapons.

"Our attitude to the Bonn government and its intelligence services depends on the investigations which have now begun," Khaddafi told the official news agency Jana.

"If the current investigations prove that West German intelligence is involved in any act inside Libya, then Germany's economic presence in Libya will be eliminated," he added.

"That state which is involved in spying and sabotage for the interests of imperialism and Zionism will lose out," he said.

Khaddafi said if Libya wanted to produce "weapons of total destruction" it would not hesitate to do so openly.

In Cairo a hitherto unknown group, the Organisation for the National Wing of the Libyan Army, said it had started the fire.

The recorded message passed in a long-distance phone call to the Cairo office of a West German television network said the group started the blaze "after making sure that the plant was making

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Dispute with V.P. Singh

Devi Lal quits

NEW DELHI, March 16, (Agencies): Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal resigned today in the first political dispute within Prime Minister V.P. Singh's 3-month-old coalition government.

United News of India said Devi Lal, 75, resigned from the cabinet because he believed some coalition leaders were trying to malign him and his son.

The news agency said a letter of resignation was sent to Singh, but there was no word if the prime minister accepted it.

Newspapers and several politicians have accused Devi Lal's son, Om Prakash Chauthala, of being responsible for violence and vote-rigging in last month's state assembly elections in Haryana state.

Chauthala was named chief minister of the state in December after Devi Lal resigned the post to join the federal cabinet. Under Indian law, Chauthala had to be elected to the Haryana state assembly within six months of his appointment as chief minister to be official.

He was a candidate for by-elections from the Meham constituency on Feb 27, when police shootings killed at least 13 people. The election commission, a watchdog body that oversees voting, said new elections would be held.

Industries Minister Ajit Singh, who is not related to the prime minister, visited Meham after the election and demanded the resignation of Chauthala "on moral grounds."

Opposition lawmakers of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party disrupted proceedings in the upper house of Parliament, demanding a statement from the government on Lal's resignation.

The house was adjourned when the Congress (I) Party members refused to sit down.

Ajit Singh is known to be a rival of Devi Lal. Both claim to be leaders of the Jat community, Hindus who live mostly in Haryana and in the western region of neighbouring Uttar Pradesh state.

NEWSWATCH

Life term

PARIS, March 16, (Reuter): A French court sentenced Argentine navy captain Alfredo Astiz to life imprisonment today for the 1977 torture of two French nuns.

Three killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 16, (Reuter): Israel said its troops killed three Palestinians today inside its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

'Eagle' cancelled

STRASBOURG, France, March 16, (UPI): Nato commanders for central Europe cancelled today "because of the situation in eastern Europe" manoeuvres codenamed "eagle" that were scheduled to begin on Monday and last until March 28.

Policeman killed

JOHANNESBURG, March 16, (Reuter): A black policeman arrested over the killing of a senior white officer in South Africa's Natal province was himself shot dead today by a policeman.

Key to hostages

RASHAYA, Lebanon, March 16, (Reuter): A senior Hezbollah official said today the United States, France and Israel held the key for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Arafat sees Nathan

TUNIS, March 16, (Reuter): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan in Tunis today.



Opening the Wall

A youth takes a hammer and chisel to a section of the Berlin Wall near the Brandenburg Gate. It was the opening of the Wall last November 9 that has in part lead to East Germany's first democratic elections in 40 years. (Reuter wirephoto)

Space eye

WASHINGTON, March 16, (Reuter): America launches the world's most sophisticated telescope into orbit next month, promising the clearest view ever to the farthest stars in the search for other life and clues to the birth of the universe.

DAY BY DAY

SOME Arab political intellectuals still believe that they are in the era of the 50's where talk on imaginary issues and baseless accusations pleased people, whose mouths were kept shut.

In the present era, mouths are open and issues are expressed through newspapers, cassettes, fax or through meetings. Everybody says what one wants and says it freely.

People do not any more believe in anything except the truth. Imaginary talk has become like the stories of "One Thousand and One Nights."

Zahed Matar

Weather

FAIR weather with light, variable to moderate south easterly wind and some clouds will appear. Sea: Slight to moderate. Haze: 3.33 am, 2.37 pm. Low: 9.00 am, 9.50 pm. Sunsets: 5.56 pm. Sunsets: 5.53 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 26°C/79°F. Amman: 21°C/73°F. Palaka: 25°C/77°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 11°C/52°F. Amman: 15°C/59°F. Palaka: 14°C/57°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 27°C/81°F. Amman: 24°C/75°F. Palaka: 25°C/77°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 74 per cent. Amman: 68 per cent. Palaka: 62 per cent.



Muslim women take to the streets of Srinagar to join the rising tide of protest against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir. (Reuter wirephoto)

SRINAGAR, India, March 16, (UPI): Separatist militants in the troubled Kashmir valley yesterday detonated a powerful bomb that injured the brother and nephew of India's Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, police said.

In related unrest, clashes between militants and security forces left one person dead and seven others injured in the northern Jammu and Kashmir state capital of Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi.

Police said militants opened fire on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) patrol in the Lal Bazar area of Srinagar about 9 am. No member of the patrol was injured, but when the patrol returned fire a woman bystander was killed and five other people were injured.

In the Soma area of town, militants shot at a CRPF patrol, injuring one patrol member and in the Khanya area a CRPF member was injured when a militant threw a hand grenade at a police patrol.

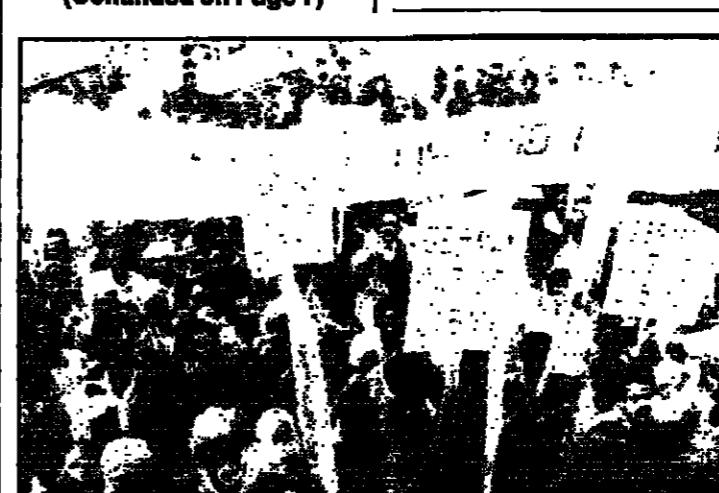
Meanwhile, in the town of Bijbehara, 28 miles (45 km) south of Srinagar, police said a blast ripped through the home of Mufti Ghulam Rasool, brother of Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, shortly after 5 am.

Police said Rasool and his young son sustained injuries in the blast and were treated at a local hospital.

The explosion, which caused extensive damage to the house, was probably caused by a time bomb, police said.

Also in Srinagar, the pilot car of Jammu and Kashmir state governor Jagmohan was set on fire by an angry group of about 30 people.

Police said a group pulled the driver from the car before dousing the vehicle with kerosene and setting it ablaze.



Demonstrators carry anti-German placards during a protest in front of the West German embassy in Libya. (Reuter wirephoto)



Cosmo-reporter

A private television network announced that one of its reporters will blast off in a Soviet rocket later this year to become the first Japanese, and possibly the world's first reporter, in space. One of two cosmonaut candidates from the Tokyo-based TBS network are to lift off from the Baikonur space centre in the central Soviet Union Dec 2 and return Dec 10, network officials said.

Journalist Ryoko Kikuchi (left) and Toyohiro Akiyama explain the hatch of a model of the Soviet space station Mir at a press briefing in Tokyo.

Roh gets free hand as cabinet resigns

SEOUL, March 16, (AP): Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon and his entire 22-member cabinet resigned today to give President Roh Tae-Woo a free hand to reorganise the government following a major political merger.

Government officials said Roh is expected to announce a new cabinet lineup tomorrow after consultations with his two fellow governing party leaders, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil.

A cabinet reshuffle has long been anticipated after Roh merged his governing party with two centrist opposition groups, led by the two Kims, to form a giant conservative party last month.

Government officials have indicated a sweeping cabinet shake-up would be needed to inject "fresh air" into national politics, following the three-party merger.

They had said a reshuffle could be

made after the national assembly ended a special session today.

Local newspapers, quoting unidentified government sources, reported the reorganisation would be extensive, probably affecting nearly two-thirds of the 22-member cabinet.

The national news agency, Yonhap, said with up to 18 posts likely to be affected, the reshuffle would be the largest since Roh took office in the spring of 1988. The previous shakeup in December 1988 affected 16 posts.

Almost all vernacular newspapers reported Roh would retain Kang as prime minister but replace Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Choi Soon and most of the cabinet's other economic members.

Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Joong, now on a tour of several Asian and Eastern European nations, and Defense Minister Lee Sang-Hoon are likely to be kept, the papers said.

Ex-suspect sworn in as MP

NEW DELHI, March 16, (Reuter): A Sikh once accused of involvement in the 1984 assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi was brought from jail today to take the oath as a member of India's Parliament.

Attinder Pal Singh, now being held on other charges, won a seat last November in Punjab, where Sikh militants are fighting for a separate homeland.

He was never tried on charges of conspiracy in Indira's killing, carried out by two of her Sikh bodyguards. Indira's son Rajiv ordered charges against Singh dropped just before quitting as prime minister after defeat in the November general elections.

Singh, wearing a yellow turban and sporting a flowing beard in orthodox observance of his religion, was brought from Delhi's Tihar jail under heavy security to the Lok Sabha (lower house) to be sworn in.

Filipino coup leader captured

MANILA, March 16, (AP): Soldiers yesterday captured a fugitive army explosives expert who was an alleged leader of last December's failed coup against President Corazon Aquino, the military said. But two others escaped from a military hospital.

In a related development, three military officials were dismissed after they were allegedly organised a mutiny in the western island of Palawan last month, a report from the defence department said.

Maj. Wilhelm Doromal, a former explosives instructor at the Philippine military academy, was arrested at about 7

am (2300 GMT Wednesday) at a house in the Manila suburb of Navotas, a constabulary report said.

The military said Doromal led mutineers in seizing the government radio and television complex during the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest bid to topple Aquino.

A 500,000-peso (\$22,000) bounty had been offered for his capture.

The report said government troops seized a rifle, several rounds of ammunition, sticks of dynamites, detonating cords and blasting caps in the house where Doromal was captured.

Doromal, who offered no resistance, was flown to constabulary headquarters camp crame in Quezon City and his being investigated, the military said.

Doromal had been court-martialed and acquitted in a March 1987 bombing at the Philippine military academy a few days before Aquino was supposed to speak before graduating cadets.

Four people were killed and 39 others were injured in that blast.

More than 1,900 rebel soldiers and officers, including three flag officers, have been taken into custody since the coup attempt.

The defence department announced yesterday that the military had relieved the chief of staff, the intelligence chief and the sergeant major of the armed forces' western command in Palawan province.

Two officers who joined December's coup attempt escaped from a military hospital where they were recuperating from wounds suffered during the mutiny, a military hospital spokesman said today.

A battle over congressional confirmation of the agrarian reform secretary is viewed in Manila crucial to the controversial land redistribution plan that was once a hallmark of Aquino's administration.

Indians in final phase of pullout

COLOMBO, March 16, (Reuter): The 5,500 Indian soldiers remaining in Sri Lanka will leave for home in the next few days. Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said yesterday.

The withdrawal is now in its final phase," said Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister.

India has said the withdrawal will be completed by the end of March but no date has been announced for the final troop departure.

The national news agency, Yonhap, said with up to 18 posts likely to be affected, the reshuffle would be the largest since Roh took office in the spring of 1988. The previous shakeup in December 1988 affected 16 posts.

Almost all vernacular newspapers reported Roh would retain Kang as prime minister but replace Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Choi Soon and most of the cabinet's other economic members.

Meanwhile, tribal organisations and opposition politicians threatened yesterday to attack and evict Tamils who have sought refuge in eastern India from fighting in Sri Lanka.

Some 4,000 armed police sealed off camps in the remote Koraput tribal area of Orissa state where India housed 1,600 Tamils this week. Officials said the refugees needed protection from Sri Lankan guerrillas.

But the refugees are also under threat from local people, who have tried to block roads to keep them out and who now threatened unspecified "agitation" to evict the Tamils.

Birendra talks of reform

150 writers, artists arrested as unrest grows

KATHMANDU, March 16, (Agencies): After 27 days of a democracy movement marked by strikes, arrests and deaths in clashes with police, King Birendra for the first time held out a promise of reforms "within the constitutional framework" but did not offer to meet opposition demands to legalise political parties.

At the same time, police arrested nearly 150 writers and artists in the city as they protested suppression of freedom.

The king has talked on reforms within the partyless framework which is far short of the demands of the opposition who have called for multi-party democracy.

The king made no mention of negotiations and said: "Any unconstitutional activity that disturbs peace, tranquillity and security will hinder the exercise of democratic rights and development in the country."

He also said, "there can be no solution to the problem where there is irresponsible behaviour and undignified acts disregarding the interest of the country and people."

The opposition was not immediately available for comment to the king's speech because most of them have been arrested or are underground.

Police broke up a silent protest at the capital's Tri-Chandra campus by nearly 150 writers and artists who protested repression by covering their mouths with black bands.

The protest had planned to stage a sitdown strike at the Royal Nepal Academy but it was heavily guarded.

Among those taken away were popular political humourists and television artists Madan Krishna Pindali, 76, and editor and publisher of the weekly newspaper Bimarsa was arrested by policemen in civilian clothes who came to his office, showed an arrest warrant and took him to jail, according to the newspaper's managing editor Haritar Bihari.

"In democracy it is the duty to abide by the provisions and processes of the constitution while seeking solutions to problems," said the king in an address at a government rally broadcast over government radio.

"Our political tradition relies on popular will and the mandate given by the national referendum in the basis of retaining the Panchayat system," the Harvard-educated monarch said. He referred to a 1980 vote which the government says endorsed the ban on political parties.

and Hari Bansha Arbarya, and novelist Daman Shumshere Rana.

At Patin campus police arrested assistant campus chief Hem Lal Shrestha and police baton-charged demonstrators, eyewitnesses said.

Police and students clashed yesterday in an engineering campus south of the capital and noted satirist and editor Keshab Pandit was arrested, witnesses and press sources said.

Unrest continued in the Himalayan kingdom amid armed strike called by the student-led pro-democracy movement demanding an end to the Panchayat 29-years-old partyless system.

At least 13 people have been killed in violence and hundreds have been arrested since Feb 18, when a coalition of outlawed political parties began waging its campaign of strikes and demonstrations.

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The proposed Hong Kong bill of rights ordinance will not, however, have legal precedence over the basic law or the constitution under which China will govern Hong Kong after the Chinese takeover.

China has stated repeatedly it would amend or repeal any laws inconsistent with the basic law, which was finalised by a Hong Kong-Chinese committee last month.

Beijing has pledged to safeguard human rights in Hong Kong and retain the British colony's legal and capitalistic systems for 50 years after 1977.

The proposed bill of rights amends the colonial constitution, called the letters patent, to incorporate into local law the provisions of the international covenant on civil and political rights that apply to the colony.

The latest violence was reported from Hathazari sub-district in southern Chittagong area where two powerful members of the ruling Jatiya Party were main contestants.

One woman died and about 500 people have been wounded in sporadic violence since Wednesday, police told reporters. More than 100 people have been arrested.

The election is seen as a test case for President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's commitment to fair elections but monitoring groups said there was rigging.

"There was evidence of rigging and ballot piracy," Father R. W. Timm, president of the Co-ordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh, told reporters.

Rigging violations charged

Three more killed in Kashmir revolt

Srinagar, March 16, (Reuter):

Three more people died in a separatist revolt in Kashmir yesterday and a civil liberties group accused India of violating human rights in its only Muslim majority state.

Police said the wife of a state government official was shot dead when militants fought one of their daily street gunbattles with security forces in the summer capital Srinagar.

They also said the bullet-ridden bodies of a man and a woman had been found at a roadside on the city outskirts.

In New Delhi, the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), a leading human rights organisation, said of Kashmir:

"Our immediate impression is that basic human rights, civil liberties, legal norms and civilised values have been grossly violated by security forces and administrative authorities in dealing with the situation on many occasions."

A government spokesman denied the charge. "No human rights or civil liberties have been violated."

Srinagar police yesterday said three Indian policemen were wounded in militant attacks during

Violence, rigging mar Bangla polls

DHAKA, March 16, (Reuter):

Rival groups with guns and home-made bombs have killed one woman and wounded nearly 500 other people during Bangladeshi rural elections this week, police said.

Bangladeshi and foreign monitoring groups said ballot stuffing, snatching of ballot boxes and under-age voting were rampant despite strong presence of security personnel at polling stations.

The latest violence was reported from Hathazari sub-district in southern Chittagong area where two powerful members of the ruling Jatiya Party were main contestants.

The incumbent sub-district chairman of Hathazari, Jatiya leader Wahidul Alam, told reporters armed men burst into

the election office and threatened

voting centres, tore up papers, threatened poll officials and pushed three vehicles into a pond.

"Many voters ran away for fear of their life. Others who stayed were told that all the votes were cast by 11 am," Alam said.

Electoral officials earlier told reporters the presence of ministers near polling stations provoked tension and even helped to neutralise security measures.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

ALTON, Illinois: After 52 years of separation, Joseph and Elizabeth Pekin are ready to get married again.

"They originally wed in 1932 in Oklahoma, but the marriage ended after six years and two children, and they went their separate ways — she to Illinois, he to Oregon."

"We were just too young," said Mrs Pekin.

That will not be a problem this time. Both were 77 when they took their vows again Saturday, although in Pekin's view, there is still plenty of time. (AP) ***

NEW YORK: It looks as if the opening of Atlantic City's newest casino will have to do without an appearance by America's newest tabloid sensation Marla Maples has pulled out.

Maples, whose relationship with billionaire Donald Trump has been the subject of extraordinary speculation since his separation from wife Ivana, had been announced as a guest at the opening of Trump's Taj Mahal on April 5. (AP) ***

STELLA COOM, Washington: Arab and Jewish women danced while holding olive branches, and served matzo ball soup and baklava at a social gathering to promote peace in the Middle East.

About 250 people attended "Bellaqas and Baklava," a five-hour dinner dance Sunday night sponsored by the 2-year-old group Tacoma Arabs, Jews and others for peace. (AP) ***

MANSFIELD, Connecticut: An 18-year-old college student is being investigated on suspicion of trying to gain illegal access to a long distance telephone network, authorities said.

The student at the University of Connecticut is accused of trying to gain the secret access code of AT&T Telecommunications Services of Philadelphia; University police said Wednesday. (AP) ***



Gorby's a real doll

A stuffed 'Mikhail Gorbachev doll' being prepared for sales in Japan and Europe by a Japanese doll maker, Avanti Ltd. The dolls will be on the market around May for 3,800 yen (\$25). (Reuter wirephoto)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: Redoubt Volcano erupted again Wednesday, hurling gritty volcanic ash some 30,000 feet (9,100 metres) into the sky, where wind blew it toward Alaska's largest city, officials say.

Ed Wolfe, a spokesman for the Alaska Volcano Observatory, called it a "modest eruption," similar in energy to one that occurred Friday. (AP) ***

ATLANTA, Georgia: Kim Basinger received an award in one of the shortest skirts ever won in the office of Secretary of State Max Cleland.

State employees put the phones on hold and hung on the actress' every word during the ceremony Monday honouring her as an outstanding Georgian. (AP) ***

MILAN, Italy: The leader of the illegal P-2 Masonic Lodge awaiting trial over Italy's biggest private banking failure, won back his passport on Wednesday but a court told him he could not leave the country. (Reuter) ***

LOS ANGELES, California: Entertainment colossus MCA Inc. on Wednesday bought the last big independent music label Geffen Records, the home of such strong rock acts as Guns n' Roses, Don Henley, Cher, Aerosmith and Whitesnake. (AP) ***

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina: Graham A. Martin, who as the United States' last ambassador to south Vietnam coordinated the chaotic airlift of US personnel, has died of complications from emphysema. He was 78. (AP) ***

Sex line up
Mothers convicted

ALLEGAN, Michigan, March 16, (AP): Two mothers face life prison sentences for lining up their six children and allowing men to choose among them for sex.

A jury Wednesday deliberated about 40 minutes before convicting Carolyn Wilson, 42, and Annette Sanford, 34, of criminal sexual conduct.

They were accused of allowing men to rape and molest their children in exchange for money or drugs several times a week from 1985 to 1988.

Wednesday's convictions involved only the rape of Wilson's son, now 13, and her daughter, now 15. Sentencing was set for March 23.

Paris fashion show Kenzo joins Russian fad

PARIS, March 16, (UPI): Paris paid homage to reforming Russia in the opening fall-winter women's ready-to-wear shows, with the noted designer Kenzo Takada joining the movement.

Kenzo's presentation, on the third day of the 10-day parades for 700 world-wide store buyers and 500 journalists, included typical Russians hats with ear flaps. This came in elegant red trimmings with black fur, unfurnished with black fur, unfurnished with

Underneath, swing full short skirts and belted jackets in lively Russian folklore prints while Russian music floated through the Kenzo salon. Models hid under babushka head scarves or little Russian fur pillboxes over full skirts or loose trousers and slim jackets with brocade closings.

Kenzo's collection, so perfectly cut and tasteful for women of all ages, was personified by his subtly draped sky blue coat dress with soft lapels and mailbox pockets. Another good number was a draped pearl-gray skirt and toast-brown tailored jacket dressed up by black velvet collar and cuffs.

The audience also liked pleated mini skirts, coats with huge shawl collars, cigarette-slim jersey tights or wider trousers cut far above the ankle.

Chantal Thomas decorated her stage in one of the Louvre Museum courtyard tents, where most of the 92 shows are being held, with a little carved roof as on ancient Russian log houses.

Since she is revered as a far-out designer, deafening American rock tunes about Russia belted out while her models paraded in



Top: Johji Yamamoto presented this ensemble featuring a top with large sleeves (model has arms tightly folded inside) and long layered yellow skirt. Left: A model for French designer Thierry Mugler presents this suede leather coat with fur collar. Right: Kenzo model wears a printed cotton blouse over a short skirt with waist length blouson jacket (Reuter wirephoto).

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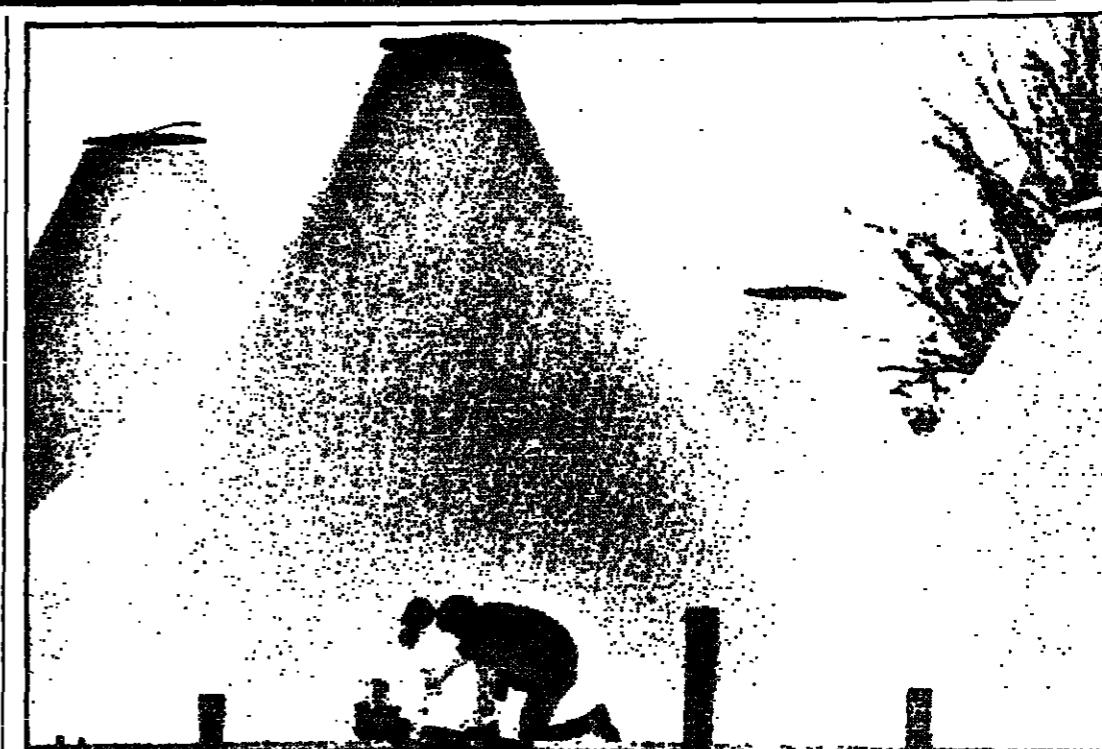


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Paris fashion show



Tent city

Two construction workers secure the support fixings around a tent city being built beside the Vincent van Gogh museum in Amsterdam, March 14.

14. The museum opens a major exhibition of the famous Dutch painter's works later this month. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Escapade' into second week in a row

Janet stays atop pop chart

NEW YORK, March 16, (AP): "Escapade" kept Janet Jackson at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the second week in a row.

Roxette's "Dangerous" stayed on for the second straight week in second spot on the Cash Box Magazine Chart, while "Roam" by B52 jumped up from sixth to third.

Last week's number three hit, "Opposites Attract" by Paula Abdul, slipped to sixth.

Three newcomers made their way into the top 10 list this week: "No More Lies" by Michel Le moved from 12th to 8th; Billy Joel's "I Go to Extremes" from 14th to 9th; and "Black Velvet" by Alanis Myles from 20th to 10th.

"Seein' My Father in Me" by Paul Overtree rose to the top of the Cash Box Magazine country-and-western singles chart, while Randy Travis' "Hard Rock Bottom" was second and "Chains" by Patty Loveless was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Escapade — Janet Jackson (A and M)
2. (2) Dangerous — Roxette (EMI)
3. (6) Roam — B52 (Reprise-Warner Brothers)
4. (7) The Price of Love — Bad English (Epic)
5. (5) We Can't Go Wrong — Cover Girls (Capitol)
6. (3) Opposites attract — Paula Abdul (Virgin)
7. (10) Come and Get My Love — D-Mob, Introducing Cathy Dennis (Polydor)
8. (12) No More Lies — Michel Le (Atco-Ruthless)
9. (14) I Go to Extremes — Billy Joel (Columbia)
10. (20) Black Velvet — Alli' Anah Myles (Atlantic)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Seein' My Father in Me — Paul Overtree (RCA)
2. (3) Hard Rock Bottom — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers)
3. (1) Chains — Patty Loveless (MCA)

1. (1) Dub Be Good to Me — Boots International (Go)

2. (2) The Brits 1990 — Various artists (RCA)

3. (6) Infinity — Guru Josh (De Construction)

4. (7) Moments in Soul — J.T. and the Big Family (Champion)

5. (14) Love Shack — B-52s (Reprise)

6. (17) Lily Was Here — David A. Stewart (Anxious)

7. (3) How am I Supposed to Live Without — Michael Bolton (CBS)

8. (4) Nothing Compares to You — Sinead O'Connor (English)

9. (10) Blue Savannah — Erasure (Mute)

10. (5) Enjoy the Silence — Depeche Mode (Mute)

People often lie to have sex: survey

BOSTON, March 16, (AP): Here's an insight that may fail to shock dedicated students of the mating game: people often tell lies in order to have sex.

Two California researchers reached that conclusion about dating behaviour after taking a survey of college students.

They say it's a point worth keeping in mind when trying to decide whether potential sexual partners have ever done anything to put themselves at risk of AIDS.

In the survey, 34 per cent of male respondents and 10 per cent of women admitted they had "told a lie in order to have sex." Even more said they would lie if a situation arose where it would be to their advantage.

The researchers noted that young people are advised to choose sexual partners who are at low risk of infection with HIV, the AIDS virus. One way to do this is to question partners about their sexual pasts.

The implications of our findings are clear," they

wrote in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. "Patients should be cautioned that safe sex strategies are always advisable, despite arguments to the contrary from partners."

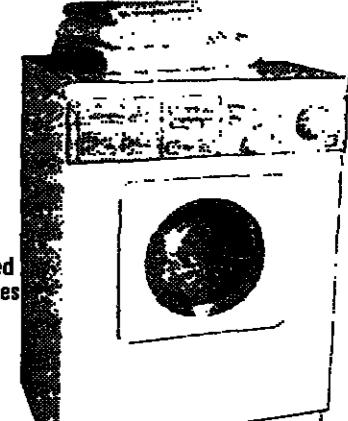
The survey, which gave no margin of error, was based on questionnaires filled out by 196 men and 226 women at colleges in southern California. It was conducted by Drs Susan D. Cochran of California State University in Northridge and Vickie M. Mays of the University of California, Los Angeles. They published their results in a letter to the journal.

In the survey, 47 per cent of the men and 60 per cent of the women believed they had been lied to for purposes of sex.

Asked about hypothetical situations, many people said they would be willing to tell lies. For instance, 20 per cent of the men and 4 per cent of the women said they would lie about having negative AIDS tests.

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INTERNATIONAL



Gorbachev is sworn in as the first executive president at a ceremony in the Kremlin. After being sworn in to the powerful new position Gorbachev vowed to combat growing nationalist and chauvinist tendencies, and prevent the country from splitting up. (Reuter wirephoto)

Romania adopts blueprint for govt

BUCHAREST, March 16. (Agencies): Interim President Ion Iliescu declared the start of Romania's election campaign after parliament approved a blueprint for the country's first democratic government in four decades and confirmed elections would be held May 20 despite opposition objections.

The election law, approved Wednesday 44-3 with two abstentions, defines the new form of government as a democratic republic, to be headed by a president. It provides for a bicameral parliament similar to that in the United States, with a Senate and a House of Representatives.

Over the objections of opposition members, the provisional National Unity Council, or interim parliament, also confirmed the previously announced date of May 20 for the first democratic elections in post-war Romania.

"For three or even four days we discussed every article of the law at length and in detail and we finally arrived at a single platform, although not unanimously," Iliescu said.

He said all major political parties played a role in preparing the text of the law, which he described as the result of a "confrontation of opinions and options."

"The election campaign has

started," he told reporters.

Many of the provisions of the election law were debated and approved piecemeal over four days of debate before winning final approval Wednesday.

In a dramatic session late Tuesday, council members voted against postponing the May 20 elections, despite pleas by opposition parties for more time to campaign.

Several opposition leaders complained that the National Salvation Front, which dominates the provisional government, has an advantage because it controls the news media.

Also fiercely debated was a proposal to exclude former high-ranking communist officials from the government — a measure that would have barred many top figures in the Front from seeking office.

During their December meeting, Gorbachev promised the Pope the Ukrainian church would become legal under a new law.

The proposal was defeated, and instead, the parliament approved a measure that would prevent anyone from holding a government post who "abused political or administrative office and violated basic human rights."

Exiled King Michael of Romania believes his country is again a constitutional monarchy, but only the people can decide what form their government should take.

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Vatican, Kremlin restore ties

70 years of mistrust ends

VATICAN CITY, March 16. (Agencies): The Vatican and Moscow officially ended seven decades of mutual mistrust yesterday, establishing permanent contacts that were expected to lead to full diplomatic ties and a papal trip to the Soviet Union.

A Vatican statement said the Holy See and the Kremlin would exchange ambassadors, restoring formal diplomatic contacts for the first time since they were broken in 1923, following the 1917 Russian revolution.

The exchange of ambassadors was by far the most significant advance for the Vatican in a year of tumultuous political change in the Warsaw Pact.

It followed the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations with Poland and Hungary and the reinstatement of bishops' hierarchies in Czechoslovakia and Romania after four decades of communist repression.

A Vatican statement said the exchange of ambassadors resulted from the decision by the Pope and Gorbachev to give official status to their relations.

But chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the new ties could be considered only "pre-diplomatic relations."

He said this was because the ambassadors would not yet reside in Rome and Moscow. Also, the Soviet envoy would have the title "extraordinary ambassador" and not "ambassador plenipotentiary."

"We are not yet at a level of full diplomatic relations. This is a situation of pre-diplomatic relations but the personal status of these two people will be that of ambassador," Navarro said.

He said he did not know how long this situation would last.

"The announcement we are making today is so new and so important that we deliberately wanted to leave a certain margin for future development," Navarro said.

"The Holy See is very happy to begin this way and we hope it yields much good fruit."

The spokesman said the ambassador to Moscow would be Archbishop Francesco Colaossi, the Pope's envoy for Eastern Europe. He guided the Vatican's restoration of ties with Warsaw and Budapest and negotiated the normalisation of church-state relations in Czechoslovakia and Romania.

Navarro did not know who the Soviet ambassador would be.

During their December meeting, Gorbachev formally invited the Pope to visit the Soviet Union. The Pontiff, who was denied permission for such a trip by several previous Kremlin leaders, said he would go when conditions were appropriate.

The Pope has said he wants to go to the Soviet Union in 1992 for a planned congress of the Ukrainian Catholic church, which Stalin outlawed in 1946 and forcibly merged with the Russian Orthodox church.

During their December meeting, Gorbachev promised the Pope the Ukrainian church would become legal under a new law.

The proposal was defeated, and instead, the parliament approved a measure that would prevent anyone from holding a government post who "abused political or administrative office and violated basic human rights."

Exiled King Michael of Romania believes his country is again a constitutional monarchy, but only the people can decide what form their government should take.

European Parliament demands greater role in EEC decision-making

STRASBOURG, France, March 16. (Reuter): The European Parliament has demanded a greater role in European Economic Community decision-making — aiming to push its ambitions for a united federal Europe.

"It is increasingly necessary rapidly to transform the European Economic Community into a European union of federal type and going beyond the single market and economic and monetary union," the parliament said in a resolution.

Parliamentarians called for a greater say in decision-making rather than leaving key decisions for backroom bargaining in the powerful executive, the European Commission.

They called for the right to initiate legislation and for real legislative powers to amend or block draft laws. It also wants the right to choose the EEC commission president, and the final say on international agreements.

In December, the 12 EEC governments

launched a conference to consider economic and monetary union — a process which could lead to a common currency and a federal central banking system.

But the parliament, echoing demands by some of the EEC's more federalist capitals and the European Commission, said the conference should also proceed with political union.

It said this should include a united foreign policy "in the face of momentous events outside the community" and new

realisation of interests both of Lithuania and of the USSR," the Soviet President told reporters.

The resolution of Lithuania, introduced by the parliamentary leadership and recommended by Gorbachev, was approved by a vote of 1,463 in support and 94 against in the Congress of People's Deputies, the expanded parliament.

■ Anatoly Lukyanov, an ally of President Mikhail Gorbachev, was elected chairman of the Soviet parliament on Thursday, a parliamentary official announced.

Soviet PM implicated in tank scandal

MOSCOW, March 16, (AP): A popular reformer implicated Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov and his cabinet in a foiled scheme to sell a dozen Soviet tanks to the West. Ryzhkov furiously denied the charge and threatened to resign.

The tank scandal that raised eyebrows among Soviet newspaper readers two months ago erupted on the floor of the Soviet Congress in the midst of all-day debate and voting that charted on the country's new presidency.

Leningrad lawyer and opposition member Anatoly Sobchak took the floor for what was meant to be a brief chance to defend his support for small private businesses, known as cooperatives, launched by the Kremlin's reforms.

But the defence turned into an attack on Ryzhkov and the government for approving the co-operative that tried to ship a string of T-72 tanks to Western Europe through the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk in December.

"Together" (with previous proposals) the West has now proposed all major elements of a "Conventional Forces in Europe" (CFE) treaty, a Western spokesman said.

The current sixth round of the CFE talks resumed after a three-week pause.

Destruction of tens of thousands of weapon systems will be a major step towards greater stability and security in Europe, and the objective of these negotiations, the Western spokesman said.

Outrage at execution of Bazon

(Continued from Page 1)

College.

His Anglophile father, who had worked for the British National Oil Company, sent his son to English-language schools in France. His English was better than his French.

After his education, Bazon had a number of jobs before turning to freelance journalism.

But the criminal past of executed Bazon added more fuel to the fire of the alleged espionage claims.

A day after Bazon was hanged, news that he was a bank robber who had served a year in a British prison was splashed across the front pages of UK tabloid newspapers.

British government officials rejected Bazon's claims received and no bettering on the decision to impose diplomatic and trade links with the British officials said. Bazon had served a year in prison in 1981 for robbing a savings and loan while he was 247 pounds (\$760) after threatening to detonate a bomb unless the money was handed over.

The London Evening Standard quoted a police officer who went to school with Bazon as saying he was a big spender who turned to drink when cheques his parents sent him from Iran dried up after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Disclosure by Hurd yesterday that Bazon had offered information to London police four times between 1987 and 1989 also clouded the picture.

Neither Hurd nor the police would describe the exact nature of the information other than to say it has nothing to do with Iraq. Bazon claimed Bazon had confessed to a would-be British police intelligence and was taking instructions from an official named "Michael."

The Foreign Office stressed that in his emotional prison cell farewell to British diplomats, Bazon sent a message to Paris saying he was not type had involved her.

Iraq is organising huge demonstrations throughout the country tomorrow in an orchestrated show of anger at Britain for condemning the hanging of Bazon.

The government-controlled press announced the protests today and denounced British criticism of the execution.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz accused Britain of showing a colonial mentality in its attack on Iraq. He warned that if the community became "distracted" in this "ill-considered campaign concocted by the British authorities."

Jordan's King Hussein has declared Iraq against Western condonation.

"We hope that the numerous trials which we see and feel, and that are at mistreating Iraq, not only in this case but on others, will cease," he told Voice of America radio.

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Unification key issue in elections

EAST BERLIN, March 16, (AP): Here are some key points about East Germany's parliamentary elections Sunday:

Main issue: East German unification with West Germany.

The communists and small leftist parties oppose a quick merger of the two Germanys. The left-leaning Social Democrats, Conservatives, Liberals and centrist groups want rapid unification. At stake:

400 seats in the national parliament elected for a four-year term.

The majority party, or a coalition, will run the next government.

Electorate and rules:

About 12.3 million eligible voters, ages 18 or older, who choose among 24 parties or alliances listed on the ballot.

Secret ballots to be marked in polling booths. No voting by mail.

Main parties or alliances:

Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the renamed Communist Party, which claims about 650,000 members. Party chairman: Gregor Gysi. Top candidate: Premier Hans Modrow, head of East Germany's caretaker government. Latest polls show PDS could get about 18 per cent of the vote.

Social Democratic Party (SPD), with about 100,000 members and widespread grassroots support. Party leader Ibrahim Boehme also is the party's candidate for premier. Latest forecast: About 33 per cent of the vote.

Alliance for Germany, with about 230,000 members, comprised of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), headed by Lothar de Maiziere; Democratic Awakening (DA), headed by Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling. Eppelmann likely to be the top candidate of the alliance, which is expected to get about 30 per cent of the vote.



Dismantling tank

West German soldiers at work dismantling an M48 tank in Darmstadt on Wednesday, as part of the Bonn government's programme to remove 235 of the armoured vehicles from service this year in view of the changing political climate in Europe. (Reuter wirephoto)

Yugoslav Parliament to press for statutory changes

BELGRADE, March 16, (Reuter): Communist Yugoslavia's Parliament called yesterday for the drafting of sweeping constitutional changes to create the basis for a multi-party system and federal control of the economy.

The federal chamber ordered a constitutional commission to draw up a draft of the constitutional amendments. Yugoslavia's eight republics and provinces must then discuss them and suggest revisions before they

can be adopted by Parliament.

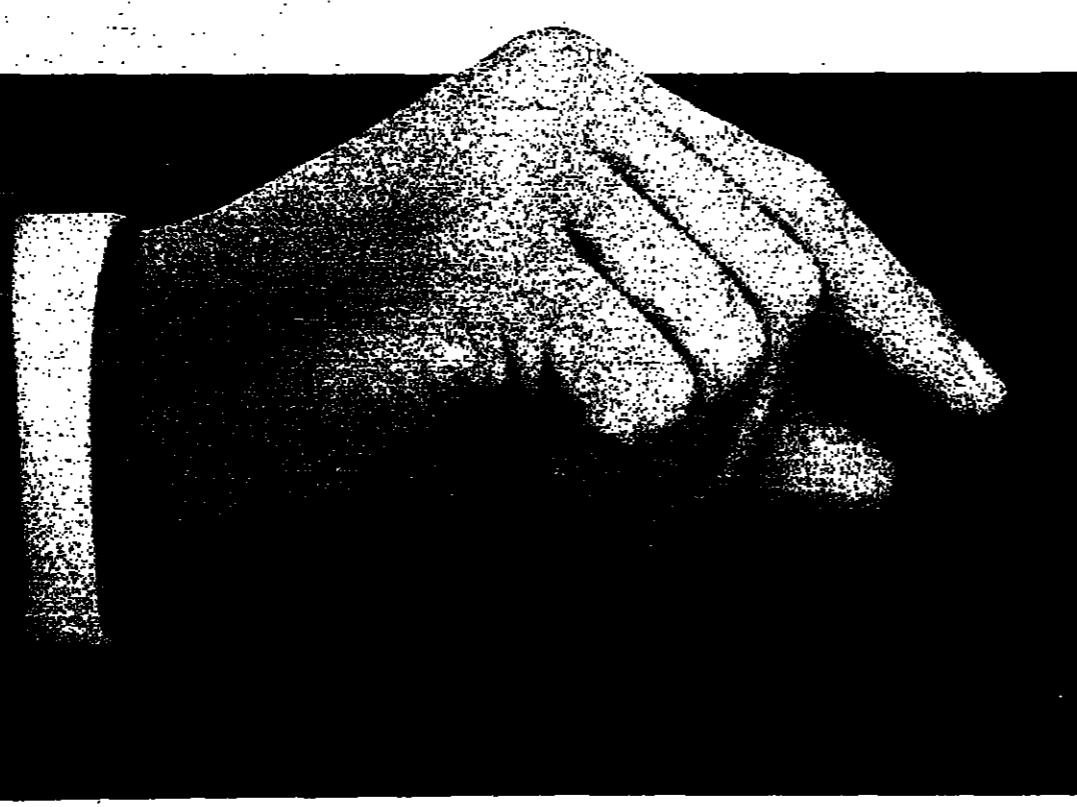
"The conditions have been created to initiate changes at the country's highest legal level," Tanjug news agency said after the 220-strong chamber approved the changes with one vote against and three abstentions.

Prime Minister Ante Markovic has said the 15 amendment are crucial to his Western-style reforms, introduced after 45 years of unchallenged communist rule. He wants the federal chamber to adopt them by the end of

April.

But he could face a fierce clash with Slovenia, the country's most Westernised republic. Slovenia opposes strengthening central power and could block some amendments because each one must be approved by all the republics.

The 15 constitutional amendments set out the right to form political parties and hold multi-party elections.



Kohl is surrounded by eager crowds during an election rally in Leipzig. (Reuter wirephoto)

Campaign intensifies

E. German polls tomorrow

EAST BERLIN, March 16, (Reuter): East German politicians today stepped up glitzy campaigns, funded from West Germany, for Sunday's first free election in the former communist state which will set the scene for German unity.

West German leaders barnstormed across East Germany to back their political allies fighting for 400 seats in the East Berlin parliament.

The main contenders, the Social Democrats (SPD) and the three-party Conservative Alliance for Germany, intensified campaigning despite a call by the organisers for a breathing space before polling day.

With 48 hours to go until the election, in which 12.2 million people are eligible to vote, the result was far from clear. The SPD and the Alliance appeared evenly split with about 35 per cent of the vote each.

But the eventual outcome was virtually certain — unification of East and West Germany, divided since Nazi Germany's 1945 defeat in World War Two.

East Germany, whose Stalinist leaders were overthrown last October, is the first of five East European states controlled by communists for four decades to hold free elections under new democratic systems.

Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, where old-guard communists were also ousted from power late last year, are due to vote for new leaders between this month and June.

The election commission's call for a halt to campaigning from tonight appeared in vain.

"It's to give voters a breather, to allow them to mull over the campaign," communism spokesman Wolfgang Holtz said.

And the East German communists — certain to go into opposition after 40 years of the helms — planned a last rally in East Berlin.

The Conservative Alliance scheduled a meeting in the capital tomorrow, well after the commission's deadline.

Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt was due to campaign in three northern cities for his Social Democrats (SPD).

Holtz said the commission could not decree an early end to electioneering.

"It is only a recommendation and not legally binding," he said.

"Of course it is not good that they are going ahead anyway, but what can we do?"

He said East German media had promised not to cover election events tomorrow.

West German parties have disregarded a vote last month by East Germany's now-disbanded round table, in which government and opposition formulated policy after last October's peaceful revolution, that no West Germans should be allowed to campaign in the elections.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose Christian Democrats back the Conservative Alliance, said in a statement that the polls were "an election for the fate of Germany."

Communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow said his party, renamed the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), was heading for defeat and would have to "go to a new school."

"Until now there was the unjustified claim in the constitution on who should rule society," he said, referring to a now-deleted article guaranteeing the communists' monopoly on power.

Idealists unhappy over reunification

LEIPZIG, East Germany, March 16, (Agencies): The idealists who helped to spark the East German revolution, opening the way to national unification, are disenchanted over what they see as a simultaneous rush to consumerism.

East Germans will vote freely on Sunday for the first time in over 50 years and are expected to give strong endorsement to calls for unity with West Germany without delay.

"This is not politics, it is pure self-interest," said Rainer Pietsch, a spokesman for an alliance of citizens' groups in Leipzig that played a major role in setting off last November's peaceful uprising against communist rule.

"People want to take over the 'McDonalds culture' tomorrow, without thinking about it," Pietsch, a spokesman for Alliance 90, said in reference to the American fast-food chain that symbolises consumer culture the world over.

"They must know it can't be as simple as that."

Meanwhile, Hans Modrow, the communist leader of the outgoing caretaker government, acknowledged that Germany's unification was inevitable but would like to see a gradual process, said an interview published Friday.

Two days before the East German election, a survey suggested nearly half of all East Germans favour immediate unification, though a third of the electorate would prefer a slower joining of the two states.

Poland called its inclusion in German unification talks a diplomatic triumph that marked the end of the "Yalta era" but simultaneously demanded more than the limited role on border issues offered on Wednesday.

"I think the real end of Yalta took place yesterday," government spokesman Malgorzata Nieszabotowska said in a televised statement on Thursday.

The invitation ended an era that began in 1945 with the Yalta conference at which US, Soviet and British leaders decided the post-war shape of Europe, she said.

Former West German chancellor Willy Brandt, a pioneer in seeking closer ties with the East bloc, has suggested that talks on German unification be expanded to include all of its neighbours.

Berliners look forward to new Reich, used cars

EAST BERLIN, March 16, (Reuter): East Germans looking forward to a new government and maybe a used Golf packed the country's first car import showroom, in anticipation of the prosperity they hope Sunday's election will usher in.

With a little over 48 hours to go before East Germany's first free vote, and probably the last before union with West Germany, normally dour East Berliners buzzed with excitement.

"It's sporty, it's got power and it looks really good," said plasterer Thomas Ryll, 23, gazing longingly at a low-slung Honda CRX coupe on show at the IFA Auto Centre.

"I can't buy it now but as soon as we start getting paid in (West German) marks, well, the price looks okay."

The showroom is the first legal commercial outlet for used Western cars in a country where buyers once had a dismal choice between two basic, low-powered automobiles.

Beyond the bread-and-butter issues dominating the campaign is the rising temptation of a cars-and-cassettes lifestyle many believed rapid unification with affluent West Germany will bring.

"We were actually supposed to open at noon, but by 9 there were over 200 people waiting outside and we didn't have the heart to keep them out," said IFA manager Joachim Klare.

Klare said his team of five salesmen at the new showroom on the outskirts of the city had closed seven deals in three hours.



Newly elected Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo appear at a press conference. From right are: Gombojavyn Debirbat, member

general; N. Mishigdorj, secretary Ts. Gombosuren, secretary, L. Tudav, member

Ts. Oold, member. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mongolia leaders promise free polls

ULAN BATOR, March 16, (Agencies): Mongolia's new Communist Party leaders yesterday criticised their predecessors for stifling democracy and promised to hold the country's first free elections after 69 years of communist dominance.

Reformist Gombojavyn Ochirbat, chosen on Wednesday as general secretary of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), said the failures of former leaders had caused economic crisis and fomented public indignation.

"All I can say now is that Mongolian society must be entirely renewed," the grey-haired 61-year-old Ochirbat told his first

news conference as party leader.

"There should be elections and the new political parties should take part on an equal footing with the MPRP," he added.

He did not say when elections would be held.

Four democratic movements have sprung up here since December, and a hunger strike last week succeeded in wresting promises from the ruling communist politburo to resign.

A key party plenum which ended on Wednesday announced the resignation, appointed new leaders and signed away the MPRP's constitutional right to rule.

"Democracy should develop,

all human rights should be ensured and social justice should prevail," Ochirbat said.

"The root cause of shortcoming in the life of our country was that democracy could not develop," he added.

Mongolians interviewed on Ulan Bator's snow-dusted streets welcomed their new party boss as an improvement on the man he replaced, 64-year-old Zhambyn Batmunkh.

"There is a saying in Mongolia," said one young man standing in the capital's central Sukabator Square, "President Bush has a good brain and a good tongue." President Gorbachev

has an excellent tongue, Batmunkh has neither," he said.

Batmunkh was quoted in the official Communist Party newspaper yesterday as offering to resign his remaining post of president.

The offer will be considered at a meeting of the Great People's Hural, or parliament, scheduled to meet on March 21, and is likely to be accepted, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Prime Minister Dumaagijn Sodnom, ousted from the party's ruling politburo on Wednesday, also offered to step down from his government post, the newspaper *Uren* said.



Discover gold
... and share the pleasure



Afghan coup leader General Shahnawaz Tanai, still wearing his general's uniform, flanked by mujahideen inside a cave where he met journalists on Wednesday. Tanai joined forces with anti-government rebels after his coup attempt ended in failure. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tanai denies pact with rebels

Coup hasn't failed, it is continuing

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan, March 16. (AP): Afghanistan's former defence minister said he has a tactical understanding — not an alliance — with fundamentalist rebels and that the fight to overthrow the Soviet-backed government has nothing to do with political ideology.

Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai, leader of the March 6 coup attempt, said that despite past differences he and the Muslim rebels share a common goal — overthrowing President Najib and his government.

"The coup has not failed. It is continuing," Tanai told a small group of reporters taken Wednesday to a rebel base in northern Logar province.

Tanai, wearing his Afghan military uniform and clutching his bat, sat cross-legged in a dimly lit, heavily guarded bunker dug into a mountainside. He talked for the first time about the mutiny and why he had teamed up with rebels of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the outspoken leader of Hezb-I-Islami, or Party of Islam.

"With the help of the mujahideen, the struggle against the regime is continuing. Najib is a war monger. He claims he wants peace and national reconciliation but he continues to burn the nation in the flames of war," said Tanai, grinning and at times

twitching his walrus-like mustache.

During the nearly 12-year-old civil war, Tanai took a hard line against the mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors. He vigorously opposed Najib's offers to rebel commanders for military rank and autonomy in the regions they controlled if they would stop fighting.

"We accept the mistakes of the past and our coming here proves that," the 40-year-old soldier said. "We have sided with the nation and our actions should make up for these mistakes."

On March 6, warplanes flown by mutinous soldiers bombed the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing dozens of people, injuring hundreds more and causing extensive damage.

■ Afghanistan yesterday asked Pakistan to extradite Tanai and 16 others who fled after their failed coup attempt last week, official Kabul Radio said.

The radio said the demand was made in a protest note handed to the Pakistani chargé d'affaires in the Afghan capital Kabul. The note repeated charges of Pakistani complicity in the March 6 attempt to topple Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah.

Fire guts chemical plant in Libya

(Continued from Page 1)

chemical and nuclear materials."

It also denounced the West German government but gave no reason.

Yesterday, 1,000 people demonstrated outside the West German embassy in Tripoli and shouted accusations of spying.

"If any company or state offered to build a chemical factory in Libya, I would sign the contract with my own hand without hesitation and I would pay a billion (dollars) ... because the world has not yet banned it," an angry Khadafi announced in a statement to the Tripoli radio.

Libya would need 20 years to make such weapons alone, he added.

Libya's Justice Secretariat (ministry) has opened an inquiry into the fire a Libyan official said today.

An Interior Ministry official in neighbouring Tunisia said late Wednesday that Libya sealed its borders, but other Tunisian officials later denied the frontiers had been closed.

Mahmoud Azzabi, press secretary at Libya's UN mission in New York, said there was "speculation that it was possibly sabotage, somebody coming from Tripoli."

The US ABC network quoted unidentified Libyan security sources as claiming the plant was burned to the ground by "the action of US and Israeli agents. The United States and Israel denied any involvement."

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad today deplored the fire at the Libyan chemical plant, describing the incident as directed against Libya and the Arab world.

"Despite conflicting and unconfirmed reports about this subject, and the extent of damage inflicted on the plant, the incident undoubtedly is directed against Libya and Arab world interests," Sheikh Sabah told reporters before leaving for Muscat, Oman.

In Bonn, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied today any West German responsibility for the fire at the Libyan plant and called for a halt to threats against Germans in Libya.

Spokesman Juergen Chrobog told reporters the Bonn government protests the demonstrations in the Libyan capital of Tripoli that blocked the West German embassy, and the failure of police to intervene.



Bank employees step out from Lebanon's Central Bank under the protection of Lebanese army troops. (Reuter wirephoto)

Row over attack on Beirut CB governor

BEIRUT, March 16, (Reuter): A bizarre row erupted in President Elias Hrawi's government today after an attempt by police to arrest the governor of the Lebanon's Central Bank.

Official sources said Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Elias Al Khazen whose bodyguards burst into a board meeting at the bank's West Beirut headquarters yesterday.

The policemen punched and manhandled the respected 72-year-old Governor, Edmond Naim, before being driven off by gunfire from security guards.

The reason was apparently that Naim, who keeps a tight grip on the national purse-strings, refused to release funds to the Interior Ministry to buy a fresh stock of blank passports, bank officials said.

Hrawi's government, based in Muslim West Beirut, is recognised abroad but has failed to gain control of the Christian heartland where General Michel Aoun and militia leader Samir Geagea are locked in a struggle for power.

Hrawi, Naim and Khazen are all Christians.

Officials sources said Prime Minister Hoss, a Muslim, telephoned Hrawi and said Khazen should quit the cabinet.

Hoss told Hrawi the incident should not pass without punishment of those responsible whoever they were," the sources said.

West Beirut branches of some 75 commercial banks closed their doors today to protest against the attack on Naim.

Naim, who rarely leaves the bank's headquarters because of assassination fears, has stood up to pressures from Muslim and Christian leaders, including the heads of the two competing governments.

Workers at Emory University's museum of art and archaeology accidentally discovered the "highly unusual" well-preserved portrait, which probably dates from 525-332 BC, in January 1989.

Syria willing to talk peace, says Peres

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 16. (AP): Vice Premier Shimon Peres told Israel's parliament yesterday that an "authoritative source" told him that Syria wants peace negotiations with Israel on demilitarising the Golan Heights.

Peres made the statement during a tense debate on a no-confidence motion by Peres' centre-left Labour Party that could oust from power Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the rival Likud Bloc.

"I want to tell all the members of the Knesset (parliament) that this morning I received information from an auth-

oritative source that the Syrians are proposing peace negotiations, demilitarising the Golan Heights," Peres said.

He gave no details about how he received the information, but his statement follows several unconfirmed reports of secret Israeli-Syrian contacts in Europe.

Syria is Israel's most implacable enemy and has always insisted on regaining the Golan Heights as part of a comprehensive settlement between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

Israel captured the strategic heights

from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed the territory in 1981.

Peres' comment came as he questioned Shamir's commitment to peace, blaming the right-wing prime minister for setting conditions that destroy chances for opening talks with Palestinians that have been proposed by the United States.

"Is that what you want now, to enter negotiations with the Syrians before you enter agreement with the Palestinians?" Peres asked. "I tell the Knesset members that we can also open peace negotiations

with the Syrians if you are ready to discuss the Golan Heights."

The report said that Syrian President Hafez Assad had dropped his demand for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace for talking to Israel, the paper said.

At the time, Shamir denied there were any official contacts between Syria and Israel. "Maybe some private individuals met with Syrian representatives, but by no means someone representing the government of Israel," he said in an interview with the Hebrew daily Maariv.

Captors threaten to stop exodus

BEIRUT, March 16, (Reuter): A pro-Iranian radical group threatened to kill three Americans held hostage in Lebanon for three years and to strike against airports, airlines and planes to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"All airports, airlines, planes and offices which help in their transport will be a direct target for us," the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement sent to Beirut's *Al Nahar* newspaper yesterday.

"This is a warning and a threat," the clandestine group said. "They (the hostages) will be executed if the American administration does not meet our demands."

The group, which seized academics Robert Pohill 54, Alman Steen, 50, and Jessie Turner, 40, on Jan 24, 1987 from Beirut University college, has repeatedly demanded the release of some 400 Arabs jailed in Israel.

Warning

The two-page statement in Arabic was accompanied by a colour photograph of Steen and Pohill. Both looked thin and haggard.

The group holds both the United States and the Soviet Union responsible for the emigration and claims the numbers of Soviet Jewish emigres were much higher than reported.

"We will start taking the appropriate measures to prevent the arrival of the Soviets," it warned.

It sent its warning as American hostage Terry Anderson started his sixth year in captivity today. Anderson, the 42-year-old Beirut bureau chief of the Associated Press, is being held by another group, the Islamic Jihad (holly war).

The statement denounced reports of "humanitarian moves" to free some of the 17 Western hostages held by Iranian-backed militants in Lebanon.

Exchange

"We have set the trap and we are anxiously waiting for the promised American adventure to free them by force," it said.

"We urge the initiators of the moves not to interfere in this issue because we are holding agents and spies working against our people. This issue will only be solved by an exchange (of detainees)."

This was an apparent reference to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Lebanon's influential Shi'ite cleric Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, who have called for the release of hostages on humanitarian grounds.

Yet another group, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) which holds two American hostages, said last week it would only free its captives if Muslim prisoners and a Shi'ite cleric were released from Israeli jails.

■ Two French former hostages put on blindfolds today and chained themselves to a tree across from the Iranian embassy to protest the continued captivity of Terry Anderson.

Jean-Paul Kauffmann and Roger Aunek were among 10 French hostages released by their captors in Lebanon between 1986 and 1988.

■ The 4-year-old daughter who hostage Terry Anderson has never seen said in a videotaped message to her father today, the fifth anniversary of his capture: "I love you, daddy. Come home, please come home."

Madelaine Anderson, the wife of Anderson, wrote a letter to her husband that was published today in the independent *Al Nahar* newspaper wondering if he will see the videotape.

China-Iran \$6b arms agreement

PARIS, March 16, (Kuna): In spite of denials by both countries, China and Iran did sign a \$6 billion arms deal, the weekly magazine "L'Express" claimed today.

Under the secret deal, Beijing will supply Tehran with the sophisticated version of the "Silkworm" anti-ship missiles, the weekly said.

New combat aircraft of the type of the Soviet-made MiG-21 and tanks were included in the Iranian "shopping list," it added.

Jewish influx into occupied lands

Arabs, Soviets damn Israel

UNITED NATIONS, March 16, (AP): The Soviet Union and Arab states yesterday condemned Israel's settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories as a threat to Middle East peace and a displacement of Palestinians.

But Israel refuted its critics and said the real objective is to halt all Jewish immigration to Israel because it fortifies and perpetuates the

state Arab states still seek to destroy.

The UN Secretary Council meeting was requested by the Soviet Union to protest Israel's settling of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and reported plans to locate a massive immigrant population in the territories.

The Soviet Union, Arab nations and most non-aligned states have



Former US president Jimmy Carter (left) during talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at the Presidential Palace in Damascus on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Carter sees hope for hostages

Assad vows to help win release

DAMASCUS, March 10, (AP): Former US President Jimmy Carter said today that chances seem better than ever for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon and that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad repeated vows to help win their freedom.

Carter made the comments to a news conference in the Syrian capital on the fifth anniversary of the kidnapping in west Beirut of American newsman Terry Anderson, 42, the longest-held of the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

"My own conviction is that more opportunities exist now for his release than ever before," Carter said.

He spoke shortly before he left Syria for Jordan, the third leg of a tour that carried him earlier to Egypt and will later take him to Israel.

Carter said he did not know if there were any secret US dealings on the matter, but noted "there are statements being made from Tehran that to me are encouraging."

"I think now there's a growing desire on the part of the Iranian government and the US government to work out the problems between us ... there's no doubt that Iran has influence on those holding the hostages, although not complete control."

He also said the Saudi Arabian-brokered Taif accords for peace in Lebanon were "a very constructive factor in the release of the hostages," although those agreements have met stiff resistance from several powerful factions in Lebanon.

Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater, revealing some more details on the mysterious episode disclosed last week, also said the telephone call taken by Bush at the White House had been monitored by both Israel and Iraq.

Fitzwater, however, said US authorities still did not believe the source of the phone call, made sometime last month, was actually an Iranian official.

Velayati: Iran must have chems

GENEVA, March 16, (UPI): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati warned yesterday that Tehran may soon have to acquire chemical weapons because of continued Iraqi production.

Velayati told the 40-nation disarmament conference, discussing chemical arms for the past 20 years, that it is urgent to complete an international ban on the weapons because of Middle East tension.

"This may well be a valid assessment in a narrow time span but history has largely been developed, shaped or affected by events in the Middle East," Velayati told the conference.

Iran faces "a complete paradox" because of Iraq and the continued absence of a peace treaty to formally end their 8-year Gulf war, he said.

Without naming Israel or other countries, he said there is also "a potential threat from some other countries in the region" which have sophisticated weapons.

"Under these conditions, we have two options," Velayati said. "One is to follow logic and reason and convert capabilities and expertise in the field of chemical weapons into practice as a deterrent against immediate and potential threats."

"The other is to follow our urge and set our hopes on a still ambiguous convention and be prepared for a possible risk or perhaps serious jeopardy to our security," he said.

No-trust against Shamir

(Continued from Page 1)

parliamentarians would back him in forming a government dedicated to seeking peace with Palestinians.

Haim Ramon, leader of the Labour party in Parliament, told reporters today:

"I hope we'll succeed at our main aim in toppling the Shamir government — to tell Baker yes, go to Cairo, hold the historic meeting between Israel and the Palestinians and then continue to bring peace to Israel."

The unprecedented defeat of Shamir's government has put efforts to convene Israeli-Palestinian peace talks on ice indefinitely and talks with the PLO.

"It has shown that there are two options — the option of Shamir, which seeks to drag the peace process into deadlock ... and the option of dialogue, negotiations on an equal basis between the conflicting parties," he told Reuters in Tunis.

Egypt, a key player in Middle East peace efforts that toppled Shamir's government, said today that peace was the biggest loser as long as the Israeli crisis continued.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, leading pro-PLO schoolmaster

Assad Saftawi said:

NEWS IN BRIEF

Telephone harassment
TELEPHONE numbers of women will not be included in the details entered in the civil identity cards issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information, according to a local daily.

The PACI has instituted this measure as a result of several complaints from citizens who asserted that they have been subjected to "undue harassment through the telephone" as a result of their telephone numbers, registered in the civil identity cards, falling into the possession of eve-teasers.

The daily in its reports commended the introduction of this pragmatic move by the PACI.

NHA payment

THE National Housing Authority will be forwarding a memo of recommendation to the Council of Ministers to increase the maximum limit of monthly payments extended to citizens to KD750 from the existing limit of KD700.

The recommendations are intended to benefit those citizens who have not benefited from the recent increase in payments in relation to the maximum level permissible, officials at the NHA said.

Teaching standard

RIYADH, March 16. (Kuna): Deans of the education faculties of GCC Universities will meet in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) University next Sunday to discuss means of promoting the standard of teachers.

A press release by the GCC Education Office here said 28 education experts will take part in the meeting to review training methods to raise the standard of teachers.

The three day meeting will focus on working papers related to different methods of teaching and co-ordination between the universities in education and qualification of teachers.

Maid assaulted

THE Criminal Court sentenced a maid to seven years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation for sexual assault.

The court was told that the accused sexually assaulted a maid in the early hours of the morning when she was returning from the toilet situated in the courtyard of her employer. The accused who also worked as a driver in the same house surprised the maid as she was leaving the toilet and forcibly sexually assaulted her after covering her mouth with his hand in an attempt to prevent her from screaming. However, the maid managed to rake his face with her fingernails and this was brought as evidence by the police investigating authorities.

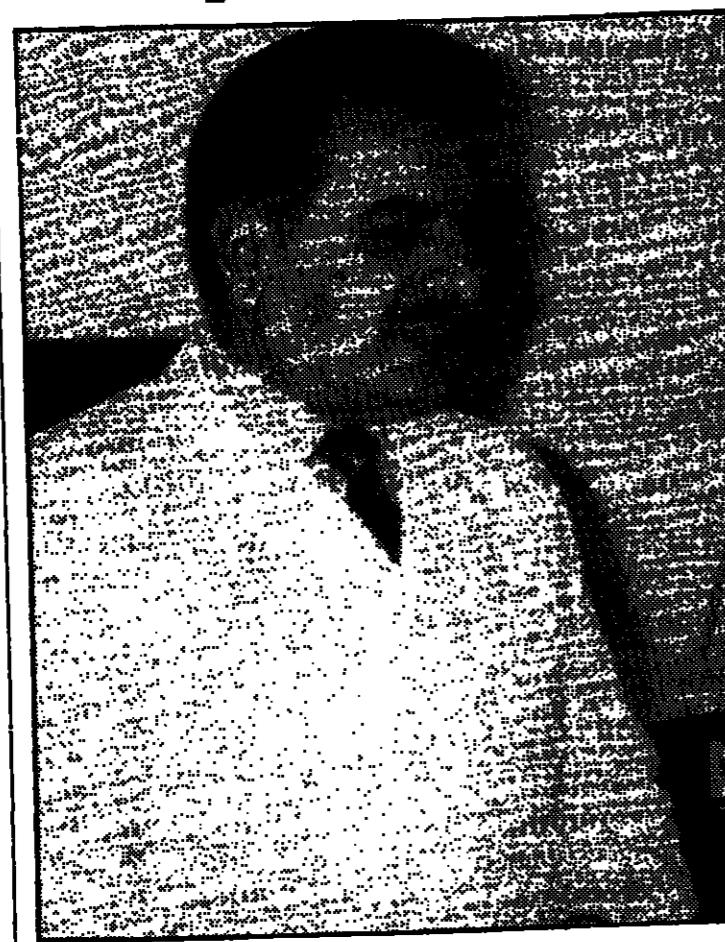
Out-of-court

THE Criminal Court refrained from sentencing two male youths accused of trying to run down six youths with their vehicle in the Nugra area.

The court was told that the first accused was involved in a heated discussion with one of the victims, while the second accused intervened to stop the argument.

However, the other five victims attacked the first and second accused, which caused the first and second convict together to ram the six with their car.

In court, the parents of all the youths agreed to settle the matter out-of-court and the authorities agreed to this settlement.



Dr Sari: discovery

Fire worship rites**Influence of maids**

ECONOMICS, changing of social customs and parting with traditional values have individually and collectively played a major role in the near "total dependence of housemaids."

In this changing social structure, both parents being at work, make it mandatory that they provide a maid to look after the children, do the housework and keep an eye on the family affairs.

The problems besetting families who depend exclusively on maids have been replete in society. In the recent past, frequent cases have been reported where maids have been found guilty of thefts from the house, adultery with the owners sons, and in some extreme cases arson in revenge for ill-treatment by the employer.

However, another dimension has been added to these problems — this is in the realm of housemaids acting as surrogate mothers and housewives.

In one such episode, a father noticed that his children, a young boy and girl, would perform strange gestures everytime he lit a cigarette. He also began to notice that the children spent most of the time in the kitchen with the maid whom he had recently hired.

During conversation with a close friend, the father narrated his "dilemma" and said that he could not give any plausible account of what was actually happening at home with the children during the absence of his wife and himself.

The friend suggested that he hide a video-camera in the kitchen to record events when he and his wife were at work. Great was the surprise of the father when he watched a play-back of the video tape after one such absence at work. He discovered that the seemingly simple gestures that his children performed when he lit a cigarette related to a form of fire-worship rituals taught them by the maid.

The scenes recorded by the hidden camera revealed the maid lighting in the electric cooker and kneeling down in a form of worship, she was uttering some form of religious mumbo-jumbo and the children were doing the same.

The Muslim father, unable to believe his eyes would not allow any act of blasphemy under his roof and wanted to get rid of the maid immediately. However, his wife asked that he not blow matters out of proportion and to calm down. In a rage, he flung an ash tray at his wife and this has led to "estranged relations" between these two otherwise normal parents.

It is really a very high price to pay when a family encounters practices of maids in their houses which are completely alien to traditional values of Kuwait.



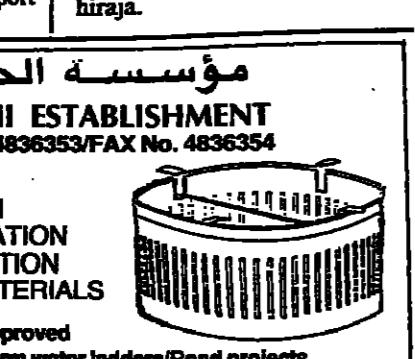
A child performing a ritual he allegedly picked up from a maid.

Indian envoy brings message

KUWAIT, March 16. (Kuna): Deputy speaker of the Indian upper house of parliament Najma Hibatullah arrived here Friday carrying message from Prime Minister V.P. Singh to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

The message deals with bilateral relations, developments in Jammu and Kashmir states and India's stand toward the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

She was received upon arrival by the cabinet's Assistant Secretary-General Jassim Al Amir, Deputy Director of Asia and Africa Department Ibrahim Mahana and the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Arun Budhiraja.

**Shield of Honour**

Director-General of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji received at his office on Thursday the chairman of the Kuwait Journalists Society Ahmad Yousuf Behbehani, the society's secretary Ahmad Shams Eden, the society's treasurer Adnan Al Rashed and others.

Discussion centred on the extensive efforts of the GTD to solve the existing traffic problem and the positive interviews held with editors-in-chief of local press during the GCC Traffic Week.

Behbehani presented the Society's Shield of Honour to Brigadier Al Hajji in appreciation of his distinguished efforts to solve the existing traffic problem.

Iraqi doctor discovers new medicine for cancer

Success claims: 3,000 patients on waiting list

By Mufeed Zaid Al Kielani

DR ABDUL Razzaq Hasan, an education professor had given up all hope of ever being cured from his disease and suffering after having visited specialists all over the world for the past 15 years. His trauma had reached such an advanced stage that he even contemplated committing suicide, but his strong faith prevented that and gave him strength.

After his last medical visit abroad in June 1989, Hasan returned to Baghdad and decided to wait for his destiny. A chance meeting with one of his old friends led him to the clinic of an Iraqi doctor, Meshal Hamed Al Sari.

Sari thoroughly studied all the medical reports that Hasan had been given by specialists throughout the past 15 years and issued by famous British physicians on the white blisters diseases and assured him that he would do his best to see that he was cured.

Hasan's treatment began on Dec 17, 1989 and only after a week he began to feel much better. His pains diminished day by day and after a month of treatment, he was fully recovered and is now back to normal.

Dr Sari graduated from the College of Medicine in 1967 and then joined the Military College where he continued his education by specialising in protective

works on the issues of war viruses and some other specialities in immunology of the human body.

During his exhaustive studies and researches, Sari said that he made vital discoveries, the most important being the theories related to the treatment of cancer. He commented that these findings are based on accurate research findings attributed to determining the main causative factors leading to cancer and which are totally different from other forms of virus infections.

He went on to explain that in most cancerous cases, genes entering the host body genes, merge with body cells to form new cells having totally different characteristics than normal cells. Therefore, Sari said that he addressed the method of treatment by mainly concentrating on the methods to prevent the effect of these genes within the human body.

Sari added that he concentrated on finding a final preparation and that he prepares these medicines without any assistance and also ensures that the patient receives the appropriate dose which will lead to full recovery.

He commented that due to the large number of patients now on his waiting list, he has discontinued admitting any new patients. However, he said that he feels pained to reject patients. This is due to several reasons, primarily the limited

capabilities of manufacturing the medicine. He commented that he is seeking suitable opportunities to manufacture the medicine on a large scale.

Commenting on the general practice of internationally announcing his invention and marketing it, Dr Sari said that before to get through many tests and laboratory examinations on animals. Different laboratory animals are given three kinds of doses from the newly invented medicine. These are the therapeutic dose, the pharmacological dose and the lethal dose.

All these types of doses have been fully tested on laboratory animals with the use of his prescription and he is currently administering these doses on volunteers — both patients and healthy individuals.

Treatment of patients began on these basis and in accordance with international scientific and medical restrictions. He added that his medicine has proven to guarantee cure in many cases when applied on a case by case basis. Sari stated that he, his wife and children were the first volunteers to try the doses and that he has treated many early and advanced cases of cancer and all recovered — thanks to the assistance of Allah, he added.

Speaking of the methodology, Sari stated that his invention isolated the cancerous cells in the body so the body can resume its normal unimpaired functions.

On the issue of finding a treatment for AIDS, the inventor said that he has as yet not had a chance to test his medicine, but expressed the belief that with some minor alterations on the present invention, it could be an effective cure for AIDS. However, he said that his priorities are still to attend to the nearly 3,000 patients who are already on his cancer patient waiting list.

The doctor went on to disclose that his newly invented treatment will obviate the need for amputation of female breasts and other individual organs and will also not need any radioactive treatment.

Ateya Abdul Farah from Jordan said that he was admitted to the hospital in Amman after having been diagnosed as having developed cancerous indications and was advised to seek treatment abroad.

A friend informed him of Dr Sari in Baghdad and after lengthy consultations was admitted on Jan 7, 1990. Only a week after beginning treatment, he was on his way to recovery and after a month he was completely back to normal.

Another patient, Kathemya Redian Eidan a 56 year old female was told that her breast cancer had developed to such an extent that it was not possible to operate and sent home to await her fate. However, she was recommended to Dr Sari in Baghdad and after three months of treatment feels quite normal and is back home having resumed her normal life.

Donors unaware of concepts; conference concludes**Doctors condemn sale of human organs**

By Diana Abou Haidar

Arab Times staff

INDIGENOUS programmes for organ donation and transplantation have become a necessity, especially now when developed countries have started to refuse performing such operations on non-nationals and some poor developing countries have turned it into a trade replete with medical dangers, said Dr Nael Al Naqeeb, undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health.

Naqeeb was speaking at a public debate on problems and solutions of organ donation and transplantation held Wednesday evening at the Regency Palace. Speakers from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, who participated in the 2nd International Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation, addressed a number of issues such as lack of donors, concept of brain death, organ donation in Islam and the Saudi experience.

The number of kidney failure cases in Kuwait is estimated at 120 annually. These patients have two alternatives to stay alive: dialysis or transplanting a kidney from a cadaver or a living donor," said Dr George Aboua, head of Organ Transplantation Department at Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine.

He added that transplantation is the better alternative because it provides the patient with longer and more normal life. Transplantation is also less costly. "The cost of dialysis for four years is estimated at KD32,000, while transplantation of a kidney plus medical care for four years costs about KD9,000. This simply means saving KD23,000 per patient in four years," stated Aboua concluding that KD5.5 million could be saved on the 240 patients who are receiving dialysis treatment in Kuwait at present.

"Other than kidney transplants, there is need for transplantation of 60 pancreases, and 50 hearts," said Aboua.

In spite of the fact that since its inception in 1979, the organ trans-



splantation programme in Kuwait has completed 501 kidney transplant procedures, it still faces a number of severe problems, he added.

"We have a very big number of patients who need kidney, heart or pancreas transplantation, yet the number of relatives willing to donate the organs is small and organs from cadavers are not available. The thing that pushed a number of desperate patients to go to other countries such as India, the Philippines or some Arab countries to buy the needed organs," claimed Aboua.

Aboua explained that such behaviour is against the Kuwaiti law, religious and medical ethics. It also subjects the patient to medical and psychological complications. "The rate of success is usually lower, and in addition to many operative complications, such operations might lead to serious diseases such as hepatitis B, malaria and AIDS."

"Unless we manage to overcome these problems, we won't be able to make good use of our up-to-date facility for organ transplantation at Ibtu Shua Hospital," claimed Aboua.

Dr Mahmoud Samhan, also of the Faculty of Medicine said that the problem of organ availability is largely due to the public's misunderstanding of Islam's point of view on organ donation, in addition to the doctors' refusal of the concept of brain death and the absence of an institution specialised in obtaining needed organs.

"We need to convince doctors

of the necessity of reporting all

deaths to the Organ Transplantation Centre so that the centre

could take action towards

obtaining permission from the

family of the deceased. We also

need to amend our laws and con-

cerning organ transplantation,"

said Dr. Nael Al Naqeeb.

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Action Line

I AM a Sri Lankan. I want to bring my daughter to Kuwait on a work permit. My daughter is 20-years-old. My husband and I have been living in Kuwait for the past 15 years. My husband works in a ministry. I hope I stand a chance to bring my daughter to Kuwait on a work permit.

Mrs. J. M. W. Nelson

THE salary you have indicated is not sufficient under the rules to sponsor the family, including children. In the public sector, a father must earn at least KD450 to sponsor his daughter. Probably, you are aware of these rules.

If you want to bring her on a work permit, it is necessary to find a job for her in a private concern. If she is selected for employment, the employer would do the needful and provide an entry permit. The only way is to look for a job for her, and if successful, call her on a work permit.

I AM a bachelor and have recently moved. Is it necessary to inform PACI of the change in address? Is it also necessary to change the address on my Civil ID card every time I move?

George Paco

IT IS absolutely necessary to inform PACI. The procedure is simple. You have to fill in the PACI form available from one of the co-operatives and submit it. The new Civil ID card will be ready within a month.

The aim of PACI is to keep records. If the necessary change is not made when you change your address, there might be problems in the future when the new occupant of the previous residence makes a claim of residing there. Also, the rules stipulate that you must inform PACI of any change of address or employment.

I HAVE been living in Kuwait for the last 35 years. My residence expired in 1988. My sponsor is willing to renew my residence but the ministry has rejected on the basis of old age. I have no one to turn to in India. My wife has expired. All my relatives are willing to help. Please suggest what I can do to renew my residence or leave this country without facing any problems.

H.K.A.

IT is an offence to live in Kuwait without a valid residence. Do you have any sons living and working in Kuwait? If you have, you could ask them to sponsor you on the basis of your long stay in the country. It is a long shot but worth a try. If you want to leave the country, you'll have to pay the fine for overstaying without renewing your residence. The overstay fine is fixed by the Ministry of Interior. After paying the fine, the ministry will issue an exit permit, giving you between a 10 days to a month to leave the country. This seems to be the logical action that you could take. However, if you can't pay the fine, then there may be some problems like deportation.

WHERE do you recommend we expatriates can have access to the latest edition of Kuwaiti labour law with amendments?

B. Prasad

TRANSLATED copies of the labour law are available in book form and sold at bookshops around Kuwait. One of the most accurate translations is by M.A. Mursi, a certified translator, of the Al-Nama International Translation Services. Translated copies of various laws cost between KD15 to KD25.

'I am treated like a piece of furniture'

Asian maids say employers have no mercy

THE pros and cons of the influx of an ever-increasing number of maids from a cross-section of cultures, religions and educational levels has been the topic of discussion at both the government and citizens level.

To address the intrinsic element, a local daily conducted a survey among a section of these maids.

The general consensus among a number of Asian maids working for employers who do not have any mercy and who do not believe in the simple norms of human dignity said that all they ask for is to be treated as "human beings". They added that they have left their homelands and their families, including children to come to Kuwait to earn a decent living by giving hard and honest work in return.

Balarita, a Filipino maid said that she had been continually working for two years at a Kuwait household, but was never treated as a human being, was deprived of her basic rights and made to toil ceaselessly. Her employer's wife used to scream at her and after having been deprived of going on her earned leave, she decided that she could not bear this inhuman behaviour and opted to leave to work for another household. She said that she is going through a nightmare trying to obtain her release and her peace of mind is completely shattered.

Polita, also a Filipino, said that she worked as a maid at five different households over an extended period of time. Though I worked hard, my employer generally was never satisfied, she said. She added that it becomes very difficult to work from the early hours of the morning till late at night and then have to sleep with

the children in the night. Caring for the little ones in the night, leaves me completely exhausted in the morning, she said adding that it becomes physically impossible to continue the next day's work. Over an extended period such work, it has effected my health negatively to a considerable extent, she said.

Polita said that, unfortunately, because of the sad plight of her own family back home, she continues to work so that she can send back some money for their needs. However, she said that it is taking quite a toll on her physical health. Her present employer is quite moody and often tends to swear at her in front of the children. Consequently, the children have adopted the same mannerisms of their mother and continually swear and pick on her. She said that she is treated as a piece of furniture.

She indicated that after having borne this "way of life" for quite some time, she became completely depressed and in that state of mind, candidly informed her employer that it was not important for her whether she was liked or not, but what she asked for was to be treated as a human being and that her salary should be paid along with her other normal benefits. She said that instead of there being any positive outcome, the scene became even worse and in desperation she had to leave the employer.

Fortunately, she said that her present employer is extremely understanding and absolutely civilised. She is treated very well, working hours are regulated, payments given on time and she feels really happy working for this family and hopes that her health will permit her to repay the family with hard and honest work.

Jewish settlement

Conspiracy condemned

THE head of the Information Committee at the Graduates Society, Saudi Al Anizi condemned the Soviet Jews immigration to occupied Palestine and described it as the most ugly crime in the history of mankind.

He said that this conspiracy is against the Palestinian people and comes as a violation of human rights.

Al Anizi who also is co-ordinator at the Arab Committee for Solidarity with the Intifada said at a press conference Thursday that the committee will organise a charitable market for the support of the intifada inside the occupied lands.

Peace

Al Anizi added that the charitable market is being held for the first time at the Girls Club on April 10.

The market will display its goods for three days which include house-ware, food section, sweets, childrens toys, Chinese paintings and handmade products.

Meanwhile, the Yemen Arab Republic's Foreign Minister

Students misuse narcotics

SECURITY forces have apprehended 173 smuggling cases and arrested 312 persons accused of trading and consuming narcotics last year, according to the director of anti-narcotics and liquor department at the Ministry of Interior, Col. Abdulla Al Farhan.

The official said that his department seized 12,154 grammes of heroin; 68,757 grammes of hashish; 536 grammes of opium; 2,067 grammes of marijuana and 788,111 narcotic pills last year.

Farhan said that his department, contrary to rumours, has not prosecuted any school student for either possession or consumption of narcotics. However, he admitted that some pupils have been known to misuse narcotic pills given to them under medical prescription.



Training

The Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paeet) Humoud Al Mudhaf shown distributing certificates to graduates of the Public Relations training course organised by the authority for a number of employees of the Ministry of Public Health. Speaking at the function, the official said that the training sector strives to cover a part of the training requirements of the state and that functional training is inevitable for each employee to keep abreast with the administrative development adopted by the state. A total of 19 employees participated in the nine day training course.

Sabah for Namibia

KUWAIT'S Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shiekh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber will head for Namibia to take part in the celebrations of Namibia's independence and inauguration ceremony of Namibia's President Sam Nujoma, Kusa learnt Friday.

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A scene from Anthony's Chance.

Czech Film Week

Fantasy with real value

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff
SOME of the latest productions from one of the world's oldest schools of cinematography will be on view in Kuwait next week when the Kuwait Cine Club launches a Czechoslovak Film Week.

More than a dozen short animated films and feature movies will be screened at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium from Tuesday.

The festival will show the Czechoslovakian film industry's technical superiority and thematic variety. The organisers say it will appeal to young as well as adult audiences.

This will be one of the rare occasions to peep into the Czechoslovak movie industry talent through short animated movies that couple fantasy with real life values thus being both entertaining and instructive. These will be followed by feature films that address everyday problems of Czechoslovakians focusing on man-woman relationships. The value of these movies is in that they transcend the boundaries of Czechoslovakia and through treatment of individual life histories deal with themes that have a universal appeal.

Teen-age love, so often a film-maker's inspiration, is dealt with a movie titled *Junior Commissars*. In it young Vojta tries to win the affection of his

Issa sessions

Social security trends

KUWAIT, March 16, (Kuna): The 10th regional training course for Asia and the Pacific on social security continued its sessions here Wednesday.

The session was attended by 80 trainees and lectures from various Asian and Pacific countries and dealt with papers presented by delegates of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The International Social Security Association (Issa) regional office director Har Mander Singh delivered a lecture on trends and problems of social security in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Singh's research dealt with the origins, patterns, development of social security in 28 Asian and Pacific countries, and highlighted the administrative, technical and financial matter which concern the social security schemes of these countries.

He noted that the purpose of his research is to describe and analyse the social security in the concerned countries.

He also stressed the fact that social protection is an instrument for social progress.

The Issa course in collaboration with Kuwait Public Institution for Social Security, is the first of its kind in the area and will last till next Wednesday.

Dental week concludes

THE Kuwait Dental Association concluded its 11th week on mouth and teeth health here Thursday.

Head of the organising committee Dr. Fatima Al Zaabi said that the week witnessed an unexpected attendance from the public.

Dr. Al Zaabi told Kuna that the week was initiated by the Dental Association in order to preserve public health.

The week held under the title "Health of the mouth" featured suggestions and advices for individual's dental care for everyone from pregnancy till the elderly, Dr. Zaabi said.

The head of the organising committee explained that the week consisted of an exhibition to which all dental health departments had contributed under the supervision of specialised dentists.

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RENAULT

WHO urged to help Palestinians

CAIRO, March 16, (Kuna): Arab health ministers, at the end of their 15th session Thursday, called on the World Health Organisation (WHO) to promote health conditions of Palestinians in the occupied lands in co-ordination with the Palestinian Red Crescent.

The council decided to entrust the head of the executive bureau of the Arab Health Ministers and President of the Palestinian Red Crescent to carry out contacts with the director of WHO concerning the demand made by the PLO to join the international organization.

The health ministers also decided to train fresh Palestinian graduates working in occupied lands.

A sum of \$150,000 set annually by the Arab Health Development Fund will be transferred to the Palestinian Red Crescent to handle health affairs for Palestinians and cover expenditures of doctors working in the occupied territories.

The council stressed the need to provide financial and moral support for the Palestinian Red Crescent to help it in fulfilling its complete role.

Al Eriani, in an interview with Arab Health Development Fund to transfer \$275,000 for the treatment of Palestinians in the occupied lands in hospitals in the Middle East and stop migration of Jews to the occupied Arab lands.

Al Eriani, to be published on Saturday, clarified that despite the importance of the United States' role in peace process in the Middle East, the Soviet Union and European countries' contribution to building peace in the region is not of less significance.

On the Red Sea security, political unrest and military escalation in the horn of Africa, Al Eriani stressed that protecting this strategic waterway is the responsibility of littoral countries, noting that the unified Yemen will continue consulting and co-ordinating with all its neighbours in this connection.

The council called on the Arab Health Development Fund to provide assistance to any Arab country that is exposed to any kind of catastrophe.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is nothing wrong with Ireland except that it is Irish, and there is nothing wrong with England except that it is not Irish — George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born writer (1856-1950).

Response to E.bloc reforms

Shunning costly weapon systems

BRUSSELS, (AP): Nato members are responding to Eastern Europe's political revolution by trimming their military budgets and turning away from expensive joint weapons programmes.

Defence Minister Guy Coembe of Belgium rang Nato's alarm bells recently by saying his country might withdraw its soldiers from West Germany even before East-West agreement on reducing conventional forces.

Considering the startling changes in the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, he asked, "how can we justify the status quo on our side?"

If West Germany drops out of the European fighter aircraft project because of domestic opposition, which is possible, the programme probably would be doomed.

Juergen Moellmann, the West German education minister, said the fighter "will be the safest airline in the history of the military because it will never fly, and therefore will not crash."

Relus Ter Beck, defence minister of the Netherlands, said, "A reconsideration of the security situation in Europe is now necessary."

There is a new feeling among Western allies that they can pare their budgets, drop out of co-operative programmes and bring their soldiers home from West Germany.

Spending

"In all likelihood ... spending will wither on the vine as much as governments feel they dare," said John Cross, deputy director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Even the United States has abandoned big increases in spending. Pentagon officials now feel able to talk about shutting down military bases, withdrawing soldiers from West Germany and dropping weapons programmes.

Other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation members are anxious to do the same, but some caution against moving too quickly.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain says the Soviet Union will have "vast military capabilities" even after promised force reductions.

Denmark's Defence Minister, Gen. Joergen Lyng, finds "developments in Eastern Europe ... so fluid that the situation can change rapidly."

Governments are under pressure to economise, however, and Sonnath Sen of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates military spending by the 16 Nato members will decline 2.7 per cent this year from about \$450 billion. He said it was off 1.1 percent last year, adjusted for inflation.

The United States, which accounts for about two-thirds of the total, probably will reduce spending by 3 per cent this year, Sen said, and European expenditures could decline slightly more than 2 per cent.

"It will be difficult for defence ministers to ask for more" in the new political climate, Sen predicted.

Officials say few members will meet Nato's guideline of a 3 per cent growth in spending this year. The target has been in effect since the 1970s, and the alliance's defence ministers probably will abolish it soon.

Some countries may keep spending up because of regional problems. Greece and Turkey, for instance, were enemies long before they were Nato allies.

Greece has exceeded the United States in the share of its economic output devoted to defence. Last year, it spent 6 per cent of its gross national product on the military, the highest in Nato and greater than the 5.5 per cent spent by the Americans, according to alliance estimates.

Turkey, one of only two Nato members bordering the Soviet Union, also worries about neighbours Syria, Iraq and Iran. Its military, now undergoing modernisation, gets about a one-quarter of the national budget.

Norway, the other Nato nation with a Soviet frontier, has drafted plans to increase military expenditure by 2.5 per cent this year.

Analysts say West Germany will be under great pressure to cut defence spending so its powerful economy can help East Germany. Bonn talks of reducing its army from 480,000 to 400,000 in the 1990s and has suspended a plan to increase the conscription term from 15 months to 18.

Target

Military hardware is a major target of budget cutters because of negotiations in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe, which are expected to produce an agreement this year.

"Countries will for the first time be looking at actually reducing the numbers of equipment they require ... It's a new environment for force planners," said Simon Lunn, deputy secretary-general of the North Atlantic Assembly, made up of legislators from Nato nations.

Arms negotiators, for example, want to limit each side to 20,000 main battle tanks, long the dominant weapon in land combat.

For the "thinned-out battlefield" of the future, governments may place more emphasis on sophisticated mobile weapons, analysts say.

Nato members have begun pulling out of costly joint arms programme set up years ago to produce modern weapons that could be shared.

"Today, as defence budgets shrink, we see co-operative programmes running into severe difficulties," William H. Taft IV, the US ambassador to Nato, said in a recent speech.

A senior alliance official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "We're this indecisive period now ... where to rush in to create new programmes is probably not wise. That's why all these countries are sort of retrenching on the programme."

An eight-nation plan to develop the warship of the 1990s has collapsed. Britain, France and Italy withdrew last fall, followed in quick succession by Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, leaving only Canada and the United States. Britain and the United States have turned their backs on plans to build a weapon fighter planes could fire from a distance, without flying over enemy territory. France and Canada got out earlier.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1526 — France's King Francis I is released from Spanish captivity.
1649 — England's Parliament abolishes House of Lords.
1658 — Royalist conspiracy is discovered in England.
1776 — American revolutionaries force British to evacuate Boston, Massachusetts.
1813 — Prussia's Frederick William III declares war on France.
1848 — Revolution under Daniel Manin begins in Venice, Italy.
1860 — Second Maori war breaks out in New Zealand.
1888 — Britain establishes protectorate over Sarawak on Borneo.
1921 — Poland's constitution is established.
1948 — Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg sign Brussels Treaty for 50-year alliance against armed attack in Europe, and economic, social and military cooperation.
1962 — Soviet Union accuses United States of fighting "undeclared war" in Vietnam and demands removal of American military forces there.
1973 — Cambodian Air Force officer steals plane and bombs presidential palace in Phnom Penh, missing president Lon Nol but killing at least 20 people.
1977 — Angolan troops invading Zaire take important copper mining centre of Kolwezi.
1988 — Israeli Army opens misconduct trials against four soldiers accused of brutality during Arab uprising.
1989 — At least two people are killed when mediaeval tower collapses in northern Italian city of Pavia.

A charmer desperate for a scoop

Lacked what it takes to be a spy

LONDON, (AP): Farzad Bazoft, the London-based journalist executed Thursday in Iraq, was a handsome, outgoing Iranian exile remembered by colleagues as desperate for a scoop but lacking the guile for a spy.

"It is ridiculous to suggest he could have been a spy," said Tim Walker, a fellow journalist on the Observer newspaper, a liberal London weekly. "He didn't have the guile for it. He was disastrous at office politics ... he just wasn't a devious man."

Bazoft, the eldest of four children of a National Iranian Oil Company executive, came to Britain in 1975 as a 16-year-old to complete his education at a technical college near Oxford.

He was still a student when Ayatollah Khomeini's fundamentalist regime ousted the Shah of Iran in 1979.

Freelance

He never returned home. As a freelance journalist, he wrote for dissident Iranian publications, and colleagues said that gradually he concluded it would be too risky to visit his family.

Britain gave him travel documents and permanent right of residence but not citizenship and he died stateless, hanged in Iraq as an alleged spy for Britain and Israel.

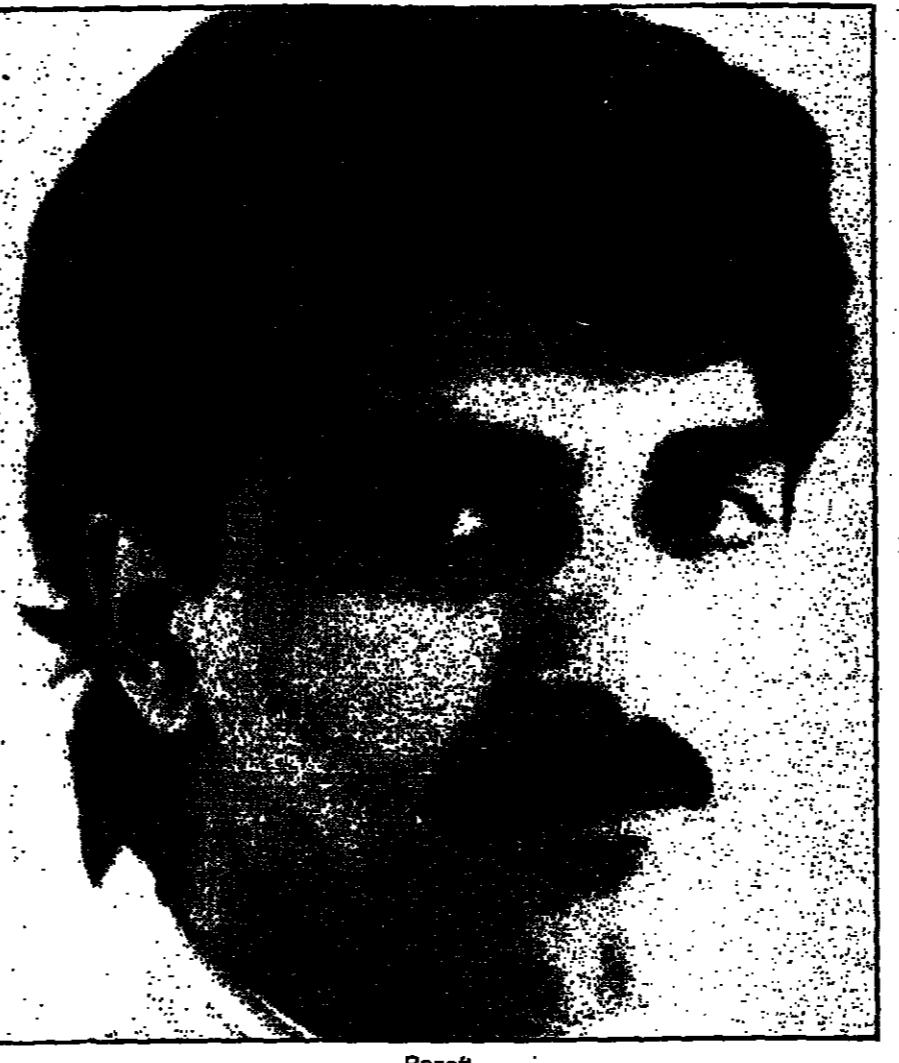
A 31-year-old bachelor without family in Britain, he often worked seven days a week driven by a goal of getting a permanent staff job on the 550,000-circulation Observer.

"He had several girlfriends but he didn't have anybody when he left (for Iraq last September)," Observer reporter Simon de Bruxelles told the Associated Press.

"He was a real lady's man, charming and talkative ... he was always laughing."

Bazoft joined the Observer in 1986 as a freelancer and was listed as one of the paper's foreign correspondents based in London.

On his computer terminal in the Observer news room Thursday, were simply the words, "May he rest in peace." His



Bazoft

clippings lay nearby.

While the Iran-Iraq war was on, Bazoft did well as a Middle East specialist, writing

occasionally for two other British national newspapers, the Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph, and working periodically for

the BBC World Service.

By last year, Bazoft's main aim was to be made a full time staffer on the Observer.

Desperate

"He wanted it more than anything else," said Walker. "Perhaps it made him particularly desperate to get a story out of his trip to Iraq ... when he heard about the explosion, he just felt he had to get the story no matter what."

In September Bazoft, on his seventh reporting trip to Iraq, was among a group of journalists invited by the Iraqi government. As usual, all were closely watched.

Then news broke of an explosion in August at a secret military installation 40 miles (64 kilometres) from Baghdad where the frigates are believed to be developing a missile. A London newspaper, the Independent, said 700 people were killed.

The Iraqis said Bazoft disguised himself as an Indian doctor and was driven to the Al Iskandaria complex by a British nurse working in Baghdad, Daphne Parish, 52, who's been jailed for 15 years.

Seven weeks after his arrest, he was shown on Iraqi television looking dazed, his face bruised, and making a confession. Iraqi newspapers published similar handwritten confessions Thursday.

Spy

Observer editor Donald Trelford and other Observer journalists say they know Bazoft was not a spy.

"Farzad was never anything more than an enthusiastic journalist," said Ian Mather, until recently the Observer's defence correspondent. "Whatever he did was purely as a journalist and to try to find out what was happening and to try to get a scoop."

De Bruxelles said that ironically the Iraqis appeared to think that because Bazoft was an Iranian exile, he was on their side. "But he was a journalist," said De Bruxelles. "He did risky, hard-hitting stories."

Journalists on the September trip insisted the Bazoft was merely doing his job.

Anglo-Iraqi relations strained

LONDON, (AP): The execution of journalist Farzad Bazoft has plunged Anglo-Iraqi relations into crisis but Britain believes a complete break with Baghdad would be counter-productive.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemned the execution of Iranian-born Bazoft on Thursday as "an act of barbarism which is deeply repugnant to all civilised people."

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd announced that the government was recalling its ambassador from Baghdad, cancelling ministerial visits to Iraq and sending home six Iraqis receiving military training in Britain.

Iraq's ambassador to London was summoned to the Foreign Office to be told of Britain's outrage at the hanging of Bazoft.

Hurd stopped short of breaking

diplomatic and trade links, telling Parliament Britain had to take care of the interests of 2,000 Britons who lived in Iraq.

Ties

Britain has no ties with Libya, Iran or Syria, and a break with Iraq would reduce British influence in the Middle East.

"Others may urge that sanctions through trade or the total break in diplomatic relations might express their justifiable feelings of outrage," Hurd said.

"In fact measures of that kind would be less effective and might end up doing no harm at all to Iraq and damaging this country more."

Last year British exports to Iraq totalled £450 million (\$729 million). Britain imported £93 million (\$151 million) worth of Iraqi goods.

Iraqi newspapers said Bazoft had con-

fessed that he spied for Israel and Britain and that his alleged missions were controlled by a mysterious spymaster called Michael.

British officials dismissed the allegations. The Sunday newspaper which Bazoft worked for, the Observer, insisted that he was simply doing his job as a reporter.

Official sources in London said Bazoft served a year in a British prison in 1981 for stealing £475 (\$760 dollars) after threatening to blow up the offices of a home loan company with a fake bomb.

The Foreign Office said Bazoft's prison record had no bearing on the steps it had taken against Iraq.

Despite an international chorus of condemnation of Bazoft's execution, Iraq remained unrepentant.

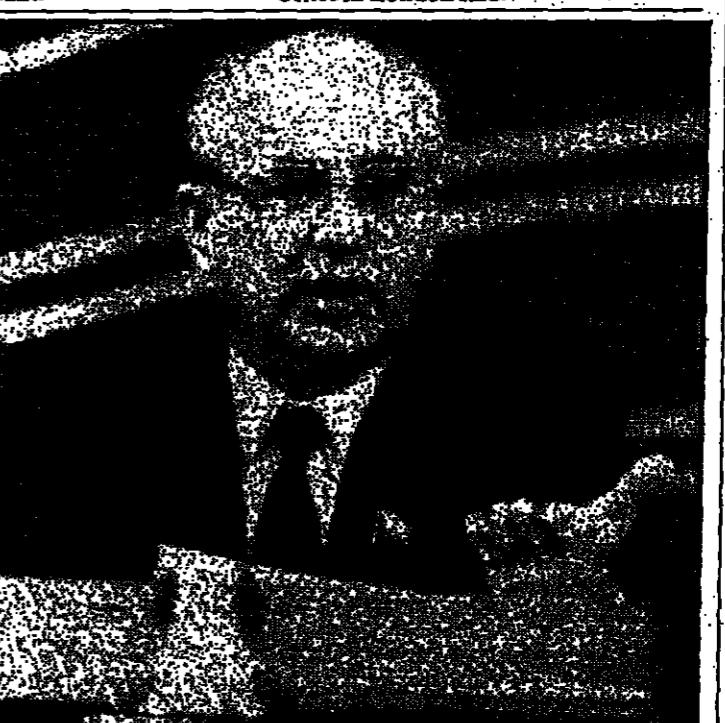
Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz accused Britain of showing a "colonialist mentality" and said Iraq would not submit to threats, blackmail or intimidation, according to a Baghdad Radio report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Bazoft, 31, was sentenced to death last Saturday by an Iraqi revolutionary court which found him guilty of spying.

Although he made a confession on Iraqi Television, he denied the charges in court.

A British nurse, Daphne Parish, who drove Bazoft to a secret Iraqi military installation in order to investigate reports of a massive explosion there, was jailed for 15 years.

An Iraqi man said to be involved in the case was jailed for 10 years, the Foreign Office in London said.



Gorbachev: yields power

Gorby moves power base

MOSCOW, (AP): Mikhail S. Gorbachev has moved his base of power from the Communist Party that has ruled the Soviet Union for seven decades to the government, which until now has played a subordinate role.

But the new powers may not remove all the hurdles facing Gorbachev, who may soon learn the frustrations of trying to push his economic programme through a legislature less willing than he to take radical actions.

The Soviet president also won by only a slim margin in his parliamentary election to a more powerful position.

The new post gives the Soviet president — at least on paper — powers akin to those of the president of the United States.

It also provides similar limits, such as reserving for the legislature the right to make laws and control the government's purse strings.

Powers

The new post gives the Soviet president — at least on paper — powers akin to those of the president of the United States. It also provides similar limits, such as reserving for the legislature the right to make laws and control the government's purse strings.

Although Gorbachev faces no serious challenger at the moment, the election results announced Thursday gave Gorbachev only 59.2 per cent of the full membership in a one-man

race, indicating considerable erosion of his support in the past year. Nearly 500 of the 2,245 members of Congress voted no, and more than 400 didn't vote at all, suggesting there is considerable silent opposition to the new president, perhaps strong enough to stymie many of his proposed reforms.

With the new separation of powers, Gorbachev will no longer preside over the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, which he stage-managed — sometimes deftly, sometimes brusquely — from his chair on the dais.

The structural overhaul completed Thursday was Gorbachev's second attempt to shift his power base, but this time it would appear he will accomplish his goal not only by building a new presidency but by stripping the party of its ability to dictate policy and practice at almost every level of Soviet society.

Although Gorbachev faces no serious challenger at the moment, the election results announced Thursday gave Gorbachev only 59.2 per cent of the full membership in a one-man

race, indicating considerable erosion of his support in the past year. Nearly 500 of the 2,245 members of Congress voted no, and more than 400 didn't vote at all, suggesting there is considerable silent opposition to the new president, perhaps strong enough to stymie many of his proposed reforms.

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VARIETY

TV channel in London

New window to the Arab world

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO (WNL): The concept of a "global village" touted by communications experts took new meaning recently for the many Arabs who live in Europe. Using the latest technology, a young entrepreneur who has risen to be the youngest film producer in Egypt took advantage of Cairo's recent cinema festival to announce the creation of an Arab TV channel scheduled to start broadcasting from London this spring.

Medhat el Cherif disclosed his new project before a crowd of celebrities from the entertainment world.

Trend

"The idea to set up an Arab channel was born from the longing that many Arabs living in adoptive countries feel for the type of media they enjoyed back home," explained Atef Ibrahim, chief executive for one of El Cherif's many companies. "Although they often have the opportunity to watch Arab video movies, these exiles aren't satisfied with movie productions because they don't portray real everyday life back home; what they want is the real thing, information on current events within the social context they remember."

To start with the Arab channel is scheduled to broadcast from 7 a.m. to noon and offer a condensed version of a full 24-hour programming including the Quran,

which will start the day, special shows for children, new bulletins, cultural happenings, dramas and sports coverage.

"We will receive our news everyday from the news agencies, and the channel will buy cultural programmes from a variety of Arab nations," Atef Ibrahim said. "But we hope to have drama series and plays just for our channel; these will take in account social trends and problems of particular interest to Arabs living abroad. Of course the slice of programming set aside for fiction works will also present the best productions from the Middle East and the Maghreb."

The public will be able to receive the channel — temporarily called "Arab Channel" via cable or satellite. At first viewers will pay nothing to tune in, which should enable the public to familiarise itself with the format, sponsors hope. Right now work is progressing at the London building where headquarters will be located. The equipment was provided by Tamido Film, another firm from the El Cherif group.

Choice

At the helm will be a veteran of Egypt's radio, Dr Mohammed Tewfik, assisted by media specialists such as art critic Wagih Khairi, and of course El Cherif himself, whose interest for anything to do with film or television production never wavers, Atef Ibrahim said.

While some question the choice of location for the station — Paris was mentioned as a more central location than London for a European channel — Atef Ibrahim pointed out that the distance between the two capitals is short. And language was an important factor, he added. A majority of the shareholders who financed the channel speak English and live in England.

A resident of Germany, Leila El Baghouri expressed her enthusiasm for the project. "I admit that German television is very interesting, especially when it comes to news and documentaries; and we also get from France and Germany excellent cultural programmes. But all of us living abroad feel a certain nostalgia for broadcasts in the Arabic language which tell us about our country and our roots," she commented. "And what's very important is that it will enable our children who grow up in a foreign culture to hear the language of their country spoken by people other than their parents."

Impact

The comments came from a famous couple, actor Moshen Mohieddin and his wife, actress Nesrine. "The fact that the new channel will borrow films and television series from Egypt will stimulate us and encourage us to improve," he noted. "This channel opens up incredible vistas, it will more than double our audience."

"Foreigners will become acquainted with

our production," Nesrine said. "I don't know how the TV people will manage the dubbing or the adding of subtitles, but for sure the channel will increase the size of our audience. It will be an incentive for the writers, actors and producers. In the long term the Arabic Channel will have a great impact on quality."

For art critic and director Rafik el Sabban, the creation of the channel is a needed parallel to what has happened in the written media with the publication of Arabic newspapers in many foreign countries. "There was an urgent need for a TV channel that would give an outlet to the greater effort under way to popularise Arabic literature, and show the world films, plays and other artistic endeavours that a foreign public would never see otherwise," he said. "Modern painting, for example, is very sophisticated in the Arab world, and this colour channel is an open door to a much greater audience."

"My first thought is for the artistic impact of the Arabic Channel because that's my field," Sabban admitted, "but I don't doubt that it will have a positive effect in many other domains."

Is the world ready for a global village, ready to share and accept different cultures? Medhat el Cherif and his team are betting that the miracles of modern technology are also changing man's perception of his environment as limited by borders and traditions.



Medhat El Cherif announces the creation of an Arab television channel scheduled to broadcast from London.

Record company making waves

By Jim Lewis

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (UPI): Atlantic Records is a relative new kid on the block in country music, but already the company is making waves.

The label is making the rare move, in country music at least, of underwriting a tour to promote two of its acts.

Jeff Stevens and the Bullets and Robin Lee both have new albums out for Atlantic and both have charted singles out.

Boontown, for the former, and *Black Velvet* for the latter. Stevens, a native of West Virginia, has been working with Atlantic for about four years. Lee, a Nashville native, has been with the label about three years. Atlantic opened its Nashville office about a year ago.

"The reason they picked Robin and me and the Bullets to do it (the tour) is that they believed in us," Stevens said. "I think we've got something different so we're going out to meet first hand the people in radio and let them get to see us first hand. They want the radio people to see us live the first time so they can know what we're about."

"There will be no cover up. The record company is trying to exploit that and it will help to sell records."

Lee said she and Stevens have been with Atlantic "since dirt."

"Jeff and I had stuck around and many times we wondered if we were going to make it to the next week or be on the drop list. The label wants to give us a fair shot," she said.

Lee, whose first interest in music was a classical pianist, said underwriting the tour is a "big commitment" by Atlantic.

"They are spending a lot of money, but the people in the label are also working hard to make this work. They are spending the money in the right way," the vocalist said.

"Our bands are working at a reasonable rate and are really putting in the time and effort. I've been to a lot of radio stations in my car, and it helped a lot. But it doesn't feel good when you pull up in a Plymouth Sundance trying to promote your records. But at least you're doing something," Lee said.

Both Stevens and Lee feel their particular brands of country music will complement each other.

"We are both on the cutting edge of country music. It's not traditional country and it's not pop. It's just music from our heart. I think it's new and fresh and not predictable," Lee said.

"We've had a chance to rehearse together. We're pretty compatible," Stevens said.

Asked if the tour was a make-or-break thing for his career, Stevens said:

"I don't feel that way, maybe I ought to. I've been trying for a long time. Most people are in music have been working at it for a long time, but I'd like to do it now. I hope we do well. If it doesn't, I'm just going to back up and keep trying again. The scary thing about it is that Atlantic is putting forth a lot of effort for me and Robin, too."

Lee said it's like she and Jeff are Atlantic's "little babies."

"There will be no stone unturned. For our part, we are going to do our best to perform the best we can."

Sleep Phone anaesthesia

INSTEAD of being anaesthetised by injection or through a rubber face mask, children undergoing operations at a British hospital are using a "sleep phone" developed by one of its operating theatre technicians.

When the children enter the anaesthesia room of the ear, nose and throat operations theatre at Southmead Hospital in Bristol, south-west England, they are invited to take a telephone call which tell them a favourite children's story, recite a nursery rhyme or play music. But while they listen to the relaxing words or music, sleep-inducing halothane gas is drawn via the mouthpiece of the specially adapted telephone.

The idea of relaxing children before their operation came to theatre technician Ralph Smith after watching a child play with a toy telephone that used a taped message. He experimented and adapted a batch of old hospital telephones that were being replaced by new ones.

Smith says the children can listen to a tape supplied by him or alternatively bring their own tape and tape it with their own voice. "We have found that it keeps the children calm and interested while they wait and it takes the fear out of being anaesthetised. The children tell other children in their ward that there is nothing to be frightened of when they go back after their operation. They are also less apprehensive if they have to return for more surgery."

The idea is now being demonstrated to other hospitals, although it is not yet available commercially. Smith believes it could also be used by dentists who have to administer gas to young children.

Oscar nominees

Best actor contest turns into a wheelchair race

By Ivor Davis

AS Oscar time comes around again, one thing looks clear: this year's best actor contest will be a wheelchair race — literally.

In one corner there's Tom Cruise as the paraplegic Vietnam vet Ron Kovic in *Born on the Fourth of July*. He's wheeling furiously against English actor Daniel Day-Lewis as the Irish cerebral palsy victim Christy Brown who becomes a famous painter and writer in *My Left Foot*.

All acting comparisons are odious, George C. Scott once proclaimed, and this one more than most. While the differences between the performances are more striking than the similarities, it seems inevitable that as the pack thins out these two wheelchairists will be front and centre in the spotlight in March for the awards.

My Left Foot, which was shot in Dublin, is a low-budget offering from the minuscule cottage industry that is the Irish film business, by a neophyte film director, Jim Sheridan. The opposition is a lavishly mounted big-budget (Universal) release from award-laden powerhouse director Oliver Stone.

Both films leave you gasping. *Fourth of July*, under Stone's direction, hurdles the viewer from scene to scene with all the subtlety of a pile driver on concrete. *My Left Foot*, with its quiet eloquence, details the world of Irish poverty with an unparalleled richness.

Loss

Both stars play handicapped men. Cruise is Kovic, a man struggling to come to terms with loss — the loss of his manhood and his faith in God, his country and his family. Day-Lewis as Brown has nothing whatsoever to lose. He starts off as little more than a lump under the stain in his meagre Dublin home. He miraculously transforms into a man who, through his own genius and courage, becomes an artist and an author.

As Kovic, Cruise rants and raves and curses his fate. He rails against members of his family who mouth off in platitudes when he returns home from the war a broken man. Day-Lewis has none of these traditional tools of the actor at his command. As Brown, his voice is largely incomprehensible for much of the film and drawing and distorted for the rest. His body is twisted and virtually useless except

for his well-trained left foot. He acts — magnificently — with his eyes. And never before has there been such an expressive chin — clenched in defiance, swaying softly in love, sunken into his chest in despair. Day-Lewis uses it as an eloquent manner as Richard Burton used his voice or Laurence Olivier his physique.

Comparison

The comparison is most obvious in the emotional scenes central to each film. In *Fourth of July*, Kovic, on a drunken binge, explodes at his mother, taunting her with his impotence, cursing at her in the kind of erotic profanity she can't handle. The audience laughs at the mother's earnest attempts to maintain her standards: "Don't say 'penis' in this house," she wails.

In *My Left Foot*, Brown, following his triumphant first show of paintings, is dining at an elegant restaurant with the woman he has fallen in love with and the owner of the gallery. After Brown has confessed his love for the woman she announces her plans to marry the gallery owner. Brown, getting drunker and drunker, lashes out in frustration and seems to revert back to some primal stage: he hangs his head on the table and grabs the tablecloth in his teeth, sending dishes, glasses and silver crashing to the floor. It is excruciatingly embarrassing and the audience would give anything to leave, to not be forced to watch this degree of pain and humiliation. It is acting at its finest.

Watching Day-Lewis become Brown was a revelation for his fellow actors. He spent eight weeks at a Dublin clinic observing cerebral palsy victims to better understand the role he had to play. He stayed in character and in the wheelchair throughout the entire filming, refusing to use his own voice, feed himself or do anything that Brown could not have done.

Irish actress Brenda Fricker, who plays Brown's mother brilliantly, recalls a scene that was later cut where she is dressing Brown for his big appearance at a black-tie charity fundraiser. Fricker used the opportunity to let Day-Lewis know just how powerful and deserving of the Oscar his performance was. While putting on his bow tie she whispered to him, "You better keep this. You're going to be needing it."

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To watch Day-Lewis and Fricker perform this duet without words is to watch two highly skilled visionaries.

"Daniel and I talked about it," Fricker says, "and we decided that the love between them was so strong that they didn't even have to touch each other. There was no need to be tactile, no cuddling, no stroking. It's all there in the eyes."

Brown's mother is a woman racked by dire poverty and beaten down by childbearing — she was pregnant 22 times — who serves as her son's tower of strength, the source of the love he feels and the fountain from which his confidence springs.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Quota system needed

VIENNA, March 16, (Kuna): Algerian Mines Minister and president of the Opec conference Sadig Boussena believed that Opec still needed the umbrella of the quota system and said demands being made for the undoing of the system were premature as the discipline imposed by the Opec oil production regime was both essential and helpful, at least for the time being.

He was speaking to Opecers on arrival here last night for the meeting today of the Opec price and production monitoring committee.

He pointed out that oil demand still lagged behind Opec supply and he did not see how the quota system could be scrapped without damaging the stability of the oil market.

Asked about the relative weakness in the market currently, he said it is no more than what we expected ... the second quarter is traditionally like this, but added confidently that the situation would change in the later part of the year with demand going up.

About today's meeting of the eight-member ministerial committee, he said: This is not a meeting where decisions will be taken. We will assess the situation, review developments so far, analyse the evolution of oil prices, the behaviour of the market, identify the different factors at work then arrive at the right conclusions, the correct strategy.

The committee groups Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Prof. Jibril Aminu has said that market stability and security of demand and supply should continue to govern Opec's production strategy.

New currency, price freeze announced

BRASILIA, March 16, (Reuters): Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello announced currency anti-inflation measures today, including a brief price freeze and a new currency.

Collor, 40, who took office on Thursday, as Brazil's youngest president, said on television the country would return to the cruzeiro as its currency. He gave no details.

Under Collor's predecessor, Jose Sarney, Brazil had three currencies in succession — the cruzeiro, cruzado and new cruzado.

Officials said prices would be frozen until April 15.

GIC net income surges

KUWAIT, March 16, (Reuters): The Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) said yesterday its net income rose by 44 per cent in 1989 to \$5.3 billion.

The Kuwait-based corporation said in a statement the growth represented a 10.3 per cent return on paid-up capital and an eight per cent dividend would be distributed.

The GIC was formed in late 1983 by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) as an investment vehicle. It puts money mainly in non-oil projects and financial instruments like foreign fixed-income securities.

Assets rose by 13 per cent in 1989 to \$1.94 billion with investments in 12 projects, the statement said.

The GCC groups Opec members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates with Bahrain and Oman.

Gorbachev seen aiming to use powers to speed economic change

MOSCOW, March 16, (Reuters): Mikhail Gorbachev, his grip on the Kremlin helm strengthened by new presidential powers, has clearly set as a priority the crushing of conservative resistance to radical economic reform, analysts said today.

The analysts, both Soviet and foreign,

make it move in the direction he wants," said a senior Soviet official.

"We have some interesting weeks ahead."

In a speech on Thursday to the parliamentary congress of people's deputies after it elected him the country's first-ever executive president, Gorbachev outlined a programme in almost total accord with that of his pro-market economic advisers.

The tone of the address indicated that radical thinkers like Nikolai Petrakov who heads a group of economists with the ear of the Kremlin chief had convinced him that the market economy had convinced him that it is to emerge from a moribund social crisis.

"There is no doubt in my mind now that he is determined to move fast against the old dogmatists — and that some very senior heads could fall if they do not shape up to what he wants," said one Moscow-based Western economic expert.

"He will certainly use his presidential powers to take control of the economy and

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'Middle class will get hurt'

Taxing Indian budget feared

NEW DELHI, March 16, (Reuters): Members of India's 100 million-strong middle class, just starting to enjoy their new status, could be hard-hit by next Monday's budget which economists expect will slap heavy taxes on them.

They said India's budget would need drastically to raise direct as well as indirect taxes to bridge what will probably be a huge deficit due to increased defence spending.

"It will be a budget of politics rather than economics and the middle class will get hurt," said Sunil Bhalla of the independent Delhi economic think tank, the policy group.

He said Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's government, which replaced Rajiv Gandhi's after a general election last November, would not risk bold initiatives in its first budget.

Raised tensions with traditional foes Pakistan over a Muslim uprising in India's Kashmir state would prevent cuts in a defence budget that

stood at 130 billion rupees (\$8.6 billion) last year, economists said.

Singh is also pledged to write off loans to farmers and fund more projects for the poor to maintain the populist image that won him power.

"He will continue with farm subsidies to the detriment of incentives for industry, tell people to tighten belts to help the poor and raise both direct and indirect taxes," Bhalla said.

He said taxes were likely to be levied on what the government still considers luxury items — the colour television sets and refrigerators that have in the past decade become essentials for the middle class.

Economists said such tax increases would bring to a temporary halt a decade-long consumer boom.

The middle classes started exerting their economic power in the late 1970s, when clerks and teachers scrambled to buy stocks and shares in blue chip companies quoted in India's most conspicuous economic indicator, the Bombay Stock

Exchange.

The market boomed after Gandhi took office in 1984, promising all liberalisation policy aimed at reducing economic controls to stimulate domestic and foreign investments.

Gandhi decided socialist-style controls, which gave a sluggish public sector preference over the private, would prevent India from competing for shrinking international markets.

The policy also allowed imports of what were previously considered luxuries.

"What was considered a luxury is now regarded by the middle classes as a necessity," said economist Pai Pandikar of the Centre for Policy Research.

Pandikar estimated that annual economic power of a middle class family at around 50,000 rupees (\$2,941), 10 times the Indian average. It was exhibited through domestic holiday travel and eating out in luxury hotels.

American oil use drops

NEW YORK, March 16, (UPI): US petroleum consumption last month dropped more than 1 million barrels daily, or 0.5 per cent, from a year ago in one of the warmest February on record, the American Petroleum Institute reported, yesterday.

The oil industry's monthly survey found a daily average of 16.61 million barrels was supplied to domestic customers, compared with 17.76 million barrels in February 1988.

Deliveries of home heating oil and other distillate fuel oils dropped 7.3 per cent to 3.16 million barrels a day from last year's 3.41 million barrels daily, API said.

Discounting relatively small month-to-month variations in the amount of petroleum products in storage, deliveries are roughly equal to consumption.

"For distillate fuel oil, unusually warm weather was at least partly responsible for that product's decline," the organisation said.

Most of the nation's heating oil is consumed in the northeast. The American Petroleum Institute's New York City Bureau said last month was the fourth warmest February on record.

API said the 6.5 per cent drop in all petroleum deliveries "was considerably more than the 1 to 3 per cent, year-to-year (monthly) decreases typical since mid-1989," when gasoline demand flattened in the wake of rising prices.

Dollar lower

Investors hold back

LONDON, March 16, (Reuters): European investors kept mainly to the sidelines today ahead of East German elections on Sunday which could hold the key to future currency trends.

The dollar ended about one pfennig lower against the West German mark after a generally uneventful week on the continent's foreign exchanges.

The market was also subdued by a lack of any movement by Japan on raising interest rates to defend the weak yen.

The dollar had started to ease yesterday after President George Bush said US interest rates needed to be kept down.

A batch of US economic data today, including producer prices and housing starts, had negligible impact, dealers said.

They said the market was awaiting the outcome of Sunday's first free elections in East Germany which are expected to be followed by the release of more details of the plan for German monetary union.

The West German mark has dropped recently because of fears that the potentially huge cost of the union to Bonn could boost inflation in Europe's biggest economy.

Japan continued to keep the market waiting on whether it would raise its official discount interest rate, currently at 4.25 per cent, to defend the weakening yen.

"We do not have enough data to make a decision now," a Bank of Japan official said yesterday.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said yesterday that the central bank was "jikkuri" about monitoring the effect of three discount rate increases last year. A bank spokesman said the word had a lot of connotations, including "without haste".

Gold edged back over \$400 an ounce but dealers said there was little interest in the bullion market. It ended in London at \$400.55 after \$398.75 yesterday.

Gas development accord signed

BANGKOK, March 16, (UPI): Thailand's Petroleum Authority today signed a \$600 million joint venture investment agreement with petroleum firms from France, Britain and Norway to develop natural gas production in the Gulf of Thailand, the government said.

A government statement said the state-owned Petroleum Authority of Thailand Exploration and Production Company Limited signed the joint venture agreement with Total of France, British Gas and Statoil of Norway.

Under the agreement, the Thai authority will hold 40 per cent of the interest shares in the "B" structure gas field while Total, British Gas and Statoil will own 30 per cent, 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, it said.

The statement said the Thai-Europe consortium intended to develop 800 square miles (3,200 sq km) of gas fields in the Gulf of Thailand, about 375 miles (600 km) south of Bangkok.

The "B" structure field has estimated reserves of about 1.8 trillion cubic feet of gas and 32 million barrels of condensate, it said.

The statement said the first phase is expected to be completed by the end of 1993. This phase will produce at least 15 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION — WINNERS AND LOSERS

by John Garuli and Benito Rotella

PART SIX: I am a Canadian, Je suis Canadien.

A citizen of Canada. Imagine that. But it is not as difficult as you imagine. As with everything else in Canada, follow the rules and the results will follow.

But what does being a Canadian citizen mean? It means someone who enjoys all the rights and privileges as laid down in the Canadian Constitution. There are three broad principles: full political participation, foreign travel and the freedom to return and, finally, full economic rights.

You will be a new Canadian and your rights and freedoms will be no different from those of several generations of Canadians. What must you pay, in return? Loyalty to Canada, which you declare in the oath of Citizenship, is all that citizenship will cost you. This doesn't mean you have to have a flag raising ceremony in your front yard every morning before you drag the kids off to school. No, Canada is a new home, not a nationalist theatre. It means that you "will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen." (Oath of Citizenship).

Now does it mean that you have to turn around and deny your love for back home. Provided the laws of your former home allow you to hold dual citizenship, Canada finds no objection in your holding two passports. The decision such as military service back home and maybe even taxes. But that's up to you.

What are the prerequisites? The requirements of the Citizenship Act are quite straightforward. And pretty normal, at that. You must have been lawfully admitted to Canada, that is, as a landed immigrant. You should be 18 years of age or older and you must have resided in Canada for a total of three years within the four years.

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Don't miss facts about immigration to Canada. Every Thursday, Arab Times



Fuel oil costs could rise, says Kuwait

LONDON, March 16. (Kuna): Kuwait has warned the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London that attempts to tackle pollution from ships by lowering the sulphur content of marine fuel oils could lead to substantial price increases being passed on to shipowners.

The specialist newspaper Lloyd's List reported today that the warning came in a submission under consideration at the IMO's marine environment protection committee meeting in London this week.

Kuwait says that fuel oil costs could increase by as much as \$20 a tonne if sulphur levels were to be reduced from the current limit of about four per cent of weight to 1 per cent of weight.

These figures are based on a study carried out in Kuwait on the cost of cutting sulphur levels at refinery level, the paper noted.

Kuwait added that a requirement to reduce sulphur levels would cause technical difficulties for producers of high sulphur crudes in the developing world.

It pointed out that most refiners producing marine fuel oils have limited desulphurisation capacity and are therefore "producing fuel oils at the maximum allowable sulphur specification limits."

Meanwhile, a Norwegian submission to the meeting estimated that ships in international trades are responsible for sulphur dioxide emissions of between 4.5 and 6.5 million tonnes a year.

Emissions over open seas are dispersed and the effects are "moderate," but they contribute significantly to environmental problems along certain routes, Norway said.

These include the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea, the South China Sea, the English Channel and the Strait of Gibraltar.

And they have decided to make the problem a priority item at their next meeting in London between Nov 12 and 16, he said.

Cabinet proposes record budget

TAIPEI, Taiwan, March 16. (AP): Taiwan's cabinet today proposed a record budget of \$46.6 billion Taiwan dollars (\$32.6 billion) for government expenditures in the 1990 fiscal year.

The proposed budget for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1, is 22.2 per cent higher than this year's budget, which was the previous record high.

The proposed budget was submitted to the lawmaking legislative Yuan, which is expected to review the request next month.

Defence spending accounted for 27.6 per cent, or \$12.4 billion Taiwan dollars (\$9 billion), of the proposed budget, the highest individual item.

The defence requests are 8.7 per cent higher than those in the previous budget, officials said.

About 18.7 per cent of the requested budget are earmarked for social welfare, 18 per cent for economic development and 15 per cent for science, education and culture.

Officials said the government's major revenues will come from taxes and monopoly profits, projected at \$35.8 billion Taiwan dollars (\$20.6 billion).

The revenues are expected to show a deficit of 17.2 billion Taiwan dollars (\$6.8 billion), which will be covered by the issuance of government bonds, officials said.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, March 16. (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Buying	Selling
US dollar 0.29340	0.29425
Sterling 0.47176	0.47344
DM 0.17152	0.17209
Sw. Fr. 0.19254	0.19322
F. Fr. 0.059752	0.060117
U. S. lira 0.00023235	0.00023220
Jap. yen 0.0019249	0.0019317
Bah. din 0.77804	0.78060
UAE Dh. 0.079869	0.080100
S. riyal 0.078219	0.078466
Q. riyal 0.080550	0.080837
O. riyal 0.76188	0.76448

Interest rates

KUWAIT, March 16. (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Offered	8-9/16	8-13/16	8-9/16	8-13/16

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.280
S. Indian rupee	7.430
Pakistani rupee	13.850
Bangladesh taka	2.9415
US dollar	0.29415
Pound sterling	0.47400
UAE dirham	0.08005
Deutsche mark	1.7220
Japanese yen	0.09193

Investment expertise still Arabs' weak point: Hassan

ABU DHABI, March 16. (Reuters): A shortage of institutions to guide Arab investors to the best local investment opportunities is the weak point in efforts to divert more of their own capital into their economies, an Arab finance chief said yesterday.

"The weakness is in the investment sector," said Maamoun Ibrahim Hassan, director-general of the Kuwait-based inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (AIGC).

"You have to have the investment companies, and investment banks ... so

investors can assess a project well, and can judge the political risk," he said in an interview on Thursday.

Because it essentially covers political risk, the AIGC is the mirror of Arab countries' willingness to promote and guarantee investment.

The demand for much greater investment and trade flows within the Arab world is there, as reflected in increasing requests for AIGC cover to the point where a capital increase has now become necessary, he said.

"What we know is that there is a

great demand and the question of insurance and guarantees has become of focal importance. The financial surpluses are there, the question is how to move them with the right guarantees," he said.

The director-general was in Abu Dhabi for the annual meeting of Arab finance ministers and heads of the five main Arab monetary and development funds.

The AIGC extends insurance for projects in the 21 Arab League countries and also to some joint Arab

foreign institutions as long as 50 per cent Arab capital is involved.

AIGC can extend country cover to a limit equal to its capital plus reserves. Since 1987, it has increased its underwriting capacity by extending reinsurance guarantees through Arab consortia up to 40 per cent of that amount.

AIGC current capital is \$88 million and reserves at the end of 1989 were \$4.2 million, AIGC officials said.

Arab League signatories to the AIGC constitution agree to repay whatever the AIGC pays out in com-

penation.

Hassan said the AIGC's message to the finance ministers, who had gathered to hear the state of their economic health from the fund chiefs, was that all parts of the financial framework had to be put in place to stimulate investment.

"Money does not move by itself," he said.

Moving funds around the Arab world was still in most cases a job which only the big multinationals with their in-house expertise and strong government backing could tackle, he said.

Sheikh Sabah for Muscat

Move to narrow gap on trade pact

KUWAIT, March 16. (Agencies): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber left here today for Muscat to take part in the joint Gulf-European committee meeting in which the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Economic Community participate.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency on departure, Sheikh Sabah emphasised the importance of this dialogue, expressing confidence that it would advance co-operation between the two groupings and expand its horizons.

He added that this is the first time that all GCC foreign ministers take part in this dialogue with their European counterparts and called for laying down strong and effective basis for this co-operation.

Sheikh Sabah said the Euro-Gulf dialogue and the Euro-Arab dialogue are complementary and meet for the same national interest and there is no contradiction between them.

The EEC and GCC foreign ministers will discuss co-operation between the two groupings in different fields.

Gulf diplomatic sources told Kuna that every minister would deal with a specific topic and Sheikh Sabah would speak about the oil industry co-operation while Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal would speak about the commercial side.

The Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa is planned to speak about the

economic side while Oman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Abdullah would tackle political co-operation.

The sources emphasised the seriousness of the two sides and the important results that are expected from this dialogue.

Sheikh Sabah is accompanied by a delegation that groups director of his office Abdullah Saud Al Abdur Razzaq, director of the GCC and Arab Gulf states department Khaled Al Jarallah, Kuwait's Ambassador in Brussels Ahmed Al Ibrahim, Kuwait's Ambassador to Oman Abdul Wahab Al Ahsan and the finance assistant undersecretary Mustafa Al Shimaili.

Sheikh Sabah was seen off on departure by Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen and other officials.

Foreign ministers will meet in Oman tomorrow to try to narrow disagreements on trade policy.

Senior officials from both sides said they had preparatory meetings today to try to ensure that there would be some common ground before the ministers faced each other.

The GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar are disappointed at the EEC's initial proposals for a free trade pact.

EEC officials have reacted angrily to what they see as EEC attempts to continue to block imports of the major GCC products — petrochemicals and aluminium — with strict quotas and tariffs.

GCC secretary-general Abdullah

India introduces new trains

Railway fares to be hiked

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: Travel and movement of freight by rail in India will become significantly costlier when the proposals made by Railway Minister George Fernandes in his maiden budget presented to parliament come into effect.

Fernandes, aiming to keep the second largest railway system in the world on the track of modernisation and technological upgrading as also maintain its financial viability, has proposed an increase of 17 per cent in the fares for the air-conditioned and first classes of travel.

Freight rates except for certain essential commodities are proposed to be hiked by ten per cent along with parcel and luggage rates. Increases have also been proposed in second class of travel, in sleeper charges and the prices of platform tickets.

The new imposts are estimated to fetch the railways an additional Rs 892 crores and the undertaking is expected to close the financial year 1990-91 with a surplus of Rs 186 crores. The railways are expected to have a surplus of Rs 140 crores as budgeted for 1989-90, Fernandes said.

The railway propose to pay a dividend of Rs 932 crores to the general exchequer in 1990-91.

While the increase in freight and parcel and luggage rates will be effective from April 1, the change in the passenger fares will become operational from May 1, Fernandes

would have computerised reservation facilities by end of 1990-91, the minister said.

Fernandes announced the introduction of 12 new trains from this summer. These are: Surat-Varanasi bi-weekly express, Jammu-Tawi-Nizamuddin — Mangalore-Tiruchirappalli weekly express, Gorakhpur — Howrah weekly express, Hatia — Varanasi bi-weekly express, Jammu-Tawi — Guwahati weekly express, Gorakhpur-Gonda express, Kathiawar-Siliguri inter-city express, Evra Road — Bilsaspur passenger train, Jasidih — Baidyanath-Bilaspur passenger shuttle, Bombay — Muzaffarpur weekly express, Sahibganj, Ramgarh passenger and Chophan-Dhanbad weekly express.

Besides, the frequency of four trains has been increased and the runs of seven trains extended.

In a major decision, the railways have decided that all new coaches from now onwards will be either second class or air-conditioned ones, indicating that first class coaches would be phased out to achieve a certain level of egalitarianism.

By the end of 1990-91, nearly 66 per cent of all train reservations on the Indian Railways would be computerised. Initially introduced in the four metros, the facility has already been provided in five more cities — Ahmedabad, Secunderabad, Bangalore, Bhopal and Lucknow. Nine more important stations — Pune, Jammu-Tawi, Patna, Guwahati, Gorakhpur, Jaipur, Trivandrum, Bhubaneshwar and Cuttack —

will have computerised reservation facilities by end of 1990-91, the minister said.

Appearing before the congressional joint economic committee on Thursday, White House Budget Director Richard Darman said the economy's poor performance in the final quarter of 1989 would add \$6.2 billion to the projected budget deficit for next year.

Before the new economic performance figures became available, the administration had estimated that the shortfall for fiscal 1991 — which begins next Oct 1 — would be \$100.5 billion.

Bush, in a speech earlier Thursday to the National Association of Manufacturers, said: "Our economy is not perfect and I don't want to paint an unrealistic picture."

But he added that democratic upheavals in the world present the opportunity for US companies to capture new markets. Political changes in Eastern Europe and Central America "mark the triumph not only of free ideas but also of free markets," he said.

Bush expressed opposition to suggestions that US aid be cut to Israel and Egypt to make money available for countries in Eastern Europe. "I don't want to suggest cutting to good friends," the President said.

Economic growth as measured by the gross

Japan, US 'must protect world trade

TOKYO, March 16. (AP): US Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher urged Japan Thursday to act in a global partnership with the United States to buoy the world trading system by eliminating trade barriers.

"If we do not act soon, we may throw away our last chance to save the world trading system from serious damage," Mosbacher told reporters at the Japan National Press Club.

Mosbacher is in Tokyo at the request of President George Bush as a follow-up to Bush's meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Palm Springs, California, earlier this month.

The two countries are negotiating greater market access in Japan for US satellites, lumber and supercomputers, and for the elimination of structural barriers to balanced trade in both nations.

Local news reports said Kaifu held an emergency meeting late Wednesday with three key cabinet ministers and set a weekend deadline for detailed measures for removing structural trade barriers.

Mosbacher said he was disappointed that satellite negotiations ended in Washington Tuesday without significant progress. "It is critical that we resolve this," he said.

The United States, a world leader in satellite technology, wants Japan to buy US satellites while Japan says it wants to nurture its fledgling industry.

"It's hard to believe this great nation, which produces so many goods so well, has to protect an infant industry," Mosbacher said.

In addition to opening the doors wider to specific products, the United States is urging structural economic reforms in Japan, such as deregulation of the distribution system, reduction of land prices and an increase in public works spending.

The United States, as part of an eight-point agenda for competitiveness, has pledged to boost research and development funds, reform education, reduce its budget deficit, and reform anti-trust and product

liability regulations.

Dubbing this a "crucial moment in our economic relations," Mosbacher said there was a growing sense of urgency in the ongoing trade talks.

While noting progress in the shrinking of US trade deficits with other countries and in reducing the US budget deficit, Mosbacher said "Japan's overall trade surplus with America — and the world — has



Elizabeth Bell as Lady Macbeth.



Frank Barrie as Macbeth.

Macbeth to be performed in Kuwait

THE London Shakespeare Group returns to Kuwait to present the best known Shakespeare play, Macbeth, next week.

The group, which presented Twelfth Night in Kuwait two years ago, is currently on a three-week tour of the Gulf.

Macbeth, described as a play with the "deepest and most dramatic impact" was first performed in Japan in 1984. This year's production has been directed by Delena Kidd. They promise to create the maximum visual impact with stunning Jacobean costumes and a simple set.

Macbeth is played by Frank Barrie whose predominantly classical career, including several seasons at the National Theatre with the late Lord Olivier, has encompassed Hamlet, Lear, Romeo and Coriolanus amongst many other Shakespearean roles. Barrie's own one man show MacCready, based on the life of the Victorian Actor, has played in New York, London and 26 other countries. He has just completed the film of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde with Michael Caine.

Elizabeth Bell, who plays Lady Macbeth,

has appeared in numerous TV programmes including the Diary of Anne Frank. She spent several seasons in Stoke, Sheffield, Harrogate, Liverpool and Birmingham. In London, she played Yelena in Uncle Vanya, Thelma in Pack of Lies, Charlotte in The Real Thing and the title role in The Daughters-in-Law. She has also played some seasons in the National Theatre, most recently as Anita in A Small Family Business and Beatrice in A View from the Bridge.

The name London Shakespeare Group was first used by the British Council in 1968 when Ken-ichi Watanabe of the Tokyo Shimbun newspaper invited four actors to tour Japanese universities.

In 1976, the British Council invited John Fraser, Delena Kidd and Gary Raymond to form a company of eight, taking over the title, London Shakespeare Group, to tour East Africa with a production of Romeo and Juliet. This company proved to be so successful that the group, joined by many excellent actors, has now completed 30 tours to 50

countries, including seven return visits to Japan adding productions of The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Hamlet, Four Love — and anthology — and Pinter's Betrayal.

In 1985, John Fraser, Delena Kidd and Gary Raymond took over full management of the group, becoming a limited company with charitable status. They continue to undertake tours for the British Council but have expanded their scope to include performances world-wide.

The group's productions are adapted for eight actors and each plays for about two hours. Their plays have been played in venues ranging from 2000-seat, fully-equipped theatres to small school halls lit by daylight. This adaptability is central to the group's work.

In Kuwait, they will perform at the Kuwait English School, Surra, at 8 pm on March 21 and 22 and at 6 pm on March 23. Their Kuwait tour has been sponsored by British Airways, British Council and Mahmood Al Ghanim.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher. News
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 11.25 Wadan Zamam Al Sami: Arabic serial (part 10)
- 12.25 News summary
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Saham Al Fadha: cartoon serial
- 5.15 The Young Artist: local programme
- 6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: historical serial

7.15 Noor Al Islam: religious programme

- 7.45 Cultural programme
- 8.00 Security and citizens: local programme
- 8.30 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Daerat Al Ahdath: local programme
- 10.15 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic serial (Part 4)
- 11.00 Thaib Al Nashama: Weekly Bedouin serial, starring Ghanem Al Saleh, Ali Al Mufeed and Rouhi Al Safadi.
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran

8.00 News in English

- 8.30 Buck James. Will

12.00 News in Brief

- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

"Buck" agree on transplanting the heart of unconscious child to another child?

9.30 Japan: "The Sword and the Chrysanthemum. A look at the Samurai, the class of warriors in Japan, their traditions, way of life and their effect of brutality shown by the Japanese soldiers during World War II.

10.30 Feature film "Street Dreams." Starring: Ben Masters, Morgan Fairchild. Paul is murdered and his wife, Laura, disappears after film script is lost. The private eye "Kid" has to find Laura and decide who is the real criminal.

KAVI SAMMELAN & MUSHAIRA



CINEMA

- Al Andales Arabic film
- Al Saluwa D.O.A.
- Al Hamra Arabic film
- Drive-in North Shore
- Al Firdous Kanoon Apna Apna
- Fahheel Open Mera Farz
- Fahheel Swagatham
- Al Jara Dance Music
- Granada Malone
- Sulabhikhat Arabic film
- Jeeb Peruvannapura Viseshanal
- Ahmadi Drive-in Iron Master

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.37 am
Zohr	11.57
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.58
Isha	7.14



Kuwait International Hotel
TURKISH Fashion Show: In addition to traditional cuisine there will be a handicraft and carpet exhibition, folk dances, folk music. Gala buffet dinner with an elaborate fashion show and cultural evening on March 16 and 19. Turkish set menu and a special fashion show on March 17 and 18, in the Failaka Restaurant. Tickets at 250000 ext. 4010.

Bella Italia: There is a new experience in Italian style dining every evening at La Palma Restaurant from 12 to March 21. Specially flown in for the occasion, chefs Manuel and Roberto Ruppelt will present an unlimited selection of pasta, Mediterranean seafood and desserts. Bellissimo! One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Telephone: 2530000 ext. 8166.

Sheraton
COFFEE Shop: A new attraction is the seafood night every Monday where some of the best of sea foods are prepared. For a taste of the best of preparations of sweet and sour hamour, fried shrimps, Thai style, etc. new dishes every week.

LE TARBOUCHE: Open for lunch and dinner Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold mezza. Every Thursday evening the Arab world specialities buffet features popular dishes from different Arab countries. Evening entertainment from our player.

Al HAMBRA: Enjoy the Arabian night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style. Enjoy a family brunch every Friday with entertainment and surprises for the children. Nightly entertainment by Gil Amici.

For more information call on 242055 ext 675.

Le Meridien
VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch which includes starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

Or in relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artist you can relish the finest cuisine from our A La Carte menu, which features specialities from our chef as fish or beef "fondue," grilled beef on "bras-serrade" hamour and salmon "shingle" among others.

GREEK TAVERNA: Every Tuesday at La Brasserie — Enjoy a little Mediterranean Magic, real Bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialities and atmosphere.

INDONESIAN CORNER: Every Wednesday at La Brasserie — Enjoy Indonesian cuisine in addition to our daily lavish buffet. Our chef will

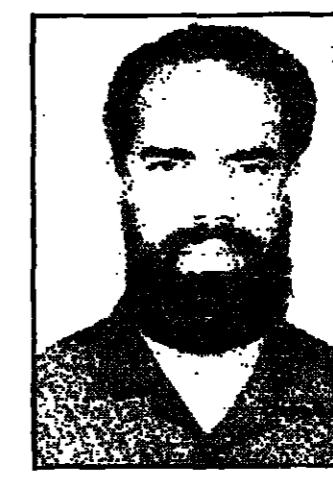
UPKAAR presents first Kavi Sammelan & Mushaira

UPKAAR presented its first Kavi Sammelan & Mushaira of local Indian poets at the Indian Embassy Hall on 2nd March 1990. Almost all the prominent poets in Kuwait participated with full enthusiasm. The programme started with a welcome speech by the convener Mohammad Ziauddin, who also outlined the objectives of eminent poets Niaz Benarasi. The poets who regaled the audience with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi poems included Adil Mansoor Bahadurgarhi, Munawwar Kanpuri, Khalish Hyderabadi, Elias Qamar Fatehpuri, Arjun Kalimi, Shashi Mahendra Naseem Akbarabadi, Naaz Fatehpuri, Ambar Fatehpuri, Shahzad Azmi, Raaz Fatehpuri, Mahshar Afghani, Khokar, Dr. Pavinder Singh, Gurbakh Singh Dogra, Shahjahan Jaafri, Hijab, Tahzib Nirmal, Abdulla Sejjid, J.S.Arora, Khalil-ur-Rahman Chishti, Hafiz Sikri, Jasbir Singh Dhiman, Noor Parker, Shahid Ratiani, Niaz Benarasi and Abdul Hamid Hosh.

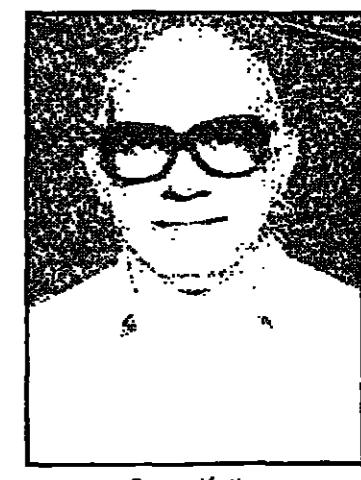
The standard of the poems was very high and very well applauded by the audience. At the end UPKAAR president G.K. Saxena who also presided over the Mushaira thanked the poets and the guests for the event, a great success. Despite impending school examinations the attendance was high and C.M. Sahni kept the atmosphere warm by providing hot Lipton tea throughout.



Hashim



Hamza



Savan Kutty

Reception programme

A reception programme was arranged on Friday the 16th March at the Teachers Union Hall, Dasma in honour of T.M. Savan Kutty president Muslim Service Society, Kerala and former chairman, Kerala State Public Service Commission, C.P. Hashim Treasurer, Muslim Service Society and P.C. Hamza, former president, Students Islamic Organisation of India who are on a short visit to Kuwait. The programme has been arranged by Kerala Islamic Group, Kuwait.

prepare Indonesian specialities in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Every Thursday at La Brasserie — Enjoy a little Mediterranean Magic, real Bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialities.

ORIENTAL BUFFET LUNCH: Every Friday at La Brasserie — Enjoy Indonesian cuisine in addition to our daily lavish buffet with Oriental organist.

SPORTS

Daniella Bowling

ALL Dames are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie Tel: 3715637 or Marianne Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

• All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phone-in entries will not be accepted.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Gag Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dick Brown



AGATHA CRUMPTIE — By Gill Bressell



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



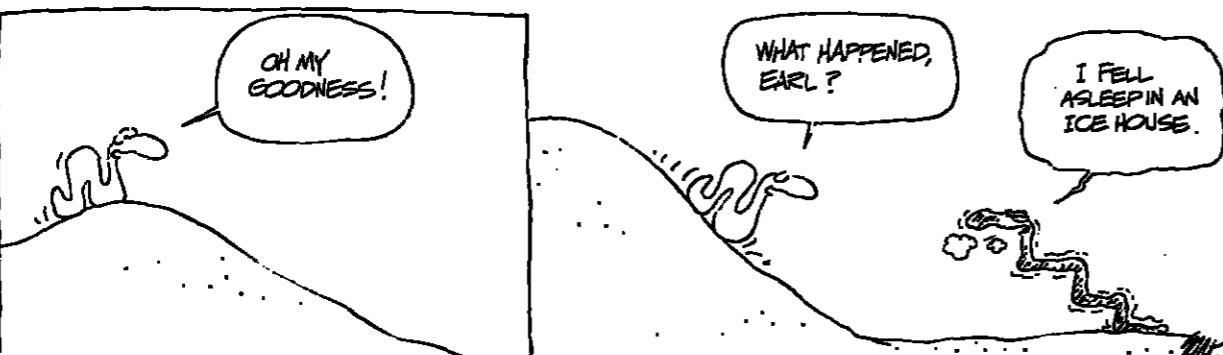
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Jeremy Hahn



ANDY CAPP — By John Gutfreund



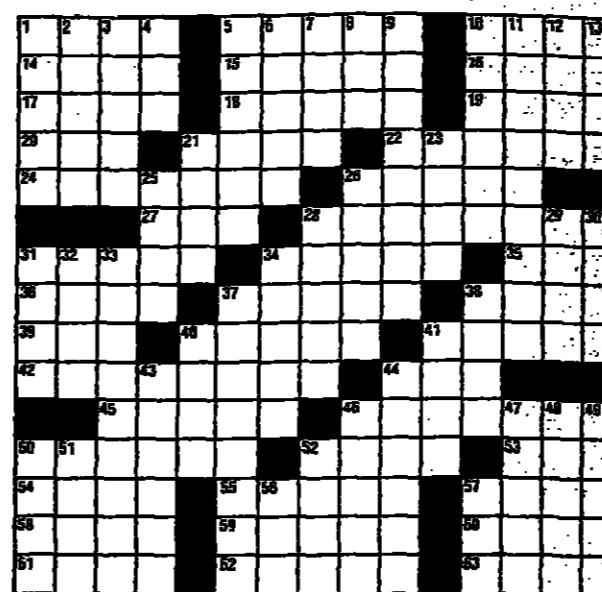
B.C. — By John Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Foster & Shultz



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Stole, e.g.
5 Search high and low
10 Noah's oldest
14 Loser of a fabled race
15 More unfavorable
16 Manner
17 Notion, in Nantes
18 Soviet Workers' org.
19 Part of a monogram, for short
20 More than pleasantly plump
21 Storm centers
22 Distributes
24 Stewed
26 Range rover
27 Mount —:
28 April item
31 Enlit
34 Zoo's powerful veggie eater
35 Cheese, in 29 Down
36 Mackinaw, e.g.
37 In the act of
38 Jazz great
39 Coastal denizen
40 Mock blow
41 Safty symbols
42 Scheinwald ploy
44 Destroy, in a way
45 Greek Isle
46 Harassed
50 Sail stiffener
52 Famed researcher Jonas
53 Eden resident
54 Woodwind
55 Render ineffective

DOWN

1 Strike out
2 Speed trap device
3 Mountain spine
4 — Wee Reese
6 Wavered
8 Remained the central
10 Table scraps
12 Put into service
9 Giving an account of pleasure
11 Student roster
13 Queens' team
21 French verb
23 Carson stand-in
25 Track figure
26 New Orleans athlete
28 Lorelei's river
29 Christiania, today
30 Concerned parents' gpa.
31 Cake topper
32 Ticked off
33 Mohave phenomenon
34 Upsets
37 Urbane
38 Roadside sign
40 Do a slow burn
41 Ear covering
43 Westerns
44 Irritated
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51 "Busy as" —
52 Catch
53 New Deal org.
57 Delight

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ORGIA	FIEND	IBIS
REAL	ARDOR	RAISE
BARB	CADGE	DILLA
PLAY	TAGAINSAM	COLIE
UNDONE	INFER	DREAMY
BEAR	BRAUN	AND
GAMIE	PIEOPLE	PLAY
EITE	CRANE	RAMA
KRONE	LOOSESED	SCREAM
SCREAM	WING	WING
PLAYMISTY	FORME	PLAY
REIN	SMOLT	ELBA
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YOUR STARS



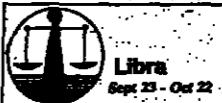
Aries
March 21 - April 19

You will have something to be pleased about, but do not become self-satisfied. And avoid being supercilious too. There is nothing to be gained from being obstinate. Be as good as your word.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Something you had been expecting to happen will, but not quite in the way you had hoped it would. You should make sure you get enough exercise as well as enough rest. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 36. Try to see things from other people's point of view too. Be kind.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

Nothing is quite as it seems to be so do try to look beneath the surface. And do not believe that what you would like to be. Show just a little more goodwill towards others. Be resolute.



Capricorn
Dec 22 - Jan 19

Something you had been hoping would not happen will not. But what does happen is not quite what you hoped would. Try to avoid keeping others waiting for you and make sure you are in the right meeting place. Be trustworthy.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You are tempted to spend more than you can afford in the hope of some good luck — don't. You will tend to run out of patience and should try not to. Make sure you are correctly dressed for the climate and occasion. Be honourable.



Leo
July 23 - Aug 22

You will be able to spend some pleasant moments in the company of good friends. If you expect too much from others you will be sorely disappointed. You should not take too much for granted now or in the future. Be perfunctory.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

There is a lot to do today so there is no time to sit back and watch the world go by. Do not permit yourself to be taken in by sales talk. Do not you to gossip or believe that all you hear is correct. Be more decisive.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18

You should not allow attention to detail to obscure the real issue. You will be able to do something to correct a mistake before it is too late. Take a little more pride in your personal appearance. Be reasonable.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You should be more inclined to listen to what others are saying. And take what they say into account when making plans. Do not think too much of past events. Be pretentious.



Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 21

You should try to let common sense prevail, this is not time for daydreams. You should not think that the world owes you a living. Do not lose the courage of your convictions. Be less arrogant.



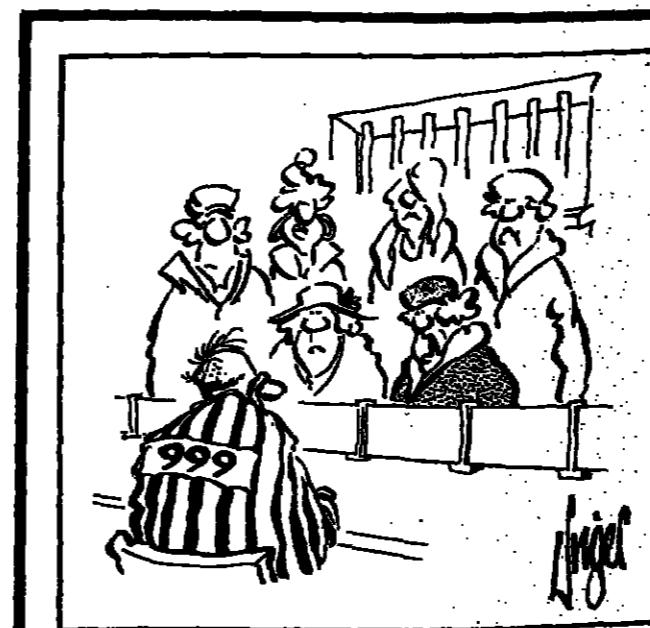
Sagittarius
Nov 22 - Dec 21

Not everything is to your liking but you will be better adapting to those things that are not. Make sure you are not making a nuisance of yourself. Show a little sympathy towards a friend who is having a difficult time. Be methodical.



Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20

Make sure you do not spend more than you can really afford. You will have to make a few changes but you should consider them carefully first. You would do well to have a good laugh at yourself — you are being too serious. Be generous.



"Make up your mind, Harold. Which one of us do you want to stay married to?"



"I've been watching this quiz show for 15 years, and I've never once answered a question."

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AQ108 ♠8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—To overcall two diamonds risks losing the spade suit. Actually, your hand is suitable for play in any of the unbid suits, including clubs, so the correct action is to make a take-out double.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AQ108 ♠8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner's response is not a weak bid—it's forward-going, showing some 8-10 points. With 15 high-card points and good intermediates your hand is certainly worth a try for game and the obvious choice is to bid two diamonds. That is not forcing, but encouraging.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AQ108 ♠8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner was free to pass, so the raise to three diamonds should show a maximum for his original response, probably about 10 points. Since the spade finesse is surely working and partner has announced a heart stopper three no trump seems like the obvious move.

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SALMIYA, House No. 6, Block No. 12, St. No. 1, Salem Al Mubarak St. in front of petrol station. Large rooms in a flat for a family, working girls or bachelor. Tel: Syed Saleem, 5319706 (res). (AT5-51909-2)

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Border & Co. all out for 110

Aussies tie down Kiwis

WELLINGTON, March 16. (Reuter): New Zealand batted slowly toward Australia's first innings total of 110 today on the rain-disrupted second day of a one-off cricket Test in Wellington.

The New Zealanders were 93 for three wickets at stumps after struggling against accurate Australian bowling and a slow-paced pitch that produced variable bounce.

Captain John Wright and Andrew Jones had looked set to get New Zealand close to Australia's modest first innings total of 110 for the loss of only one wicket.

However, both batsmen were out in the last 30 minutes when the score was 89, leaving the Australians a little happier after their batting collapse yesterday.

Batting was difficult after rain delayed the start of play for the second consecutive day. There appeared little likelihood of any play at all at midday as drizzle continued over the basin reserve ground.

But the skies cleared and a light afternoon breeze and sun dried the ground sufficiently to allow 44 overs to be played in one afternoon session.

The wicket, which has little grass, had dried a fraction since yesterday, when the New Zealand bowlers took advantage of its moisture.

But Australian off-spinner Peter Taylor generated noticeable turn, containing the New Zealand batsmen in a controlled spell of 17 overs in which he took one wicket for 23 runs.

He frustrated opener Trevor Franklin into driving a ball in the air to mid-on where Geoff Marsh took a brilliant diving catch.

Franklin produced convincingly at several balls from Taylor and at times struggled against Australia's pace bowling.



Danny Morrison



Richard Hadlee

trio of Terry Alderman, Carl Rackemann and Greg Campbell, all of whom got movement off the seam.

Taylor should have had a second wicket when he beat Andrew Jones as he came forward out of his crease but wicket-keeper Ian Healy dropped the ball and missed a certain stump.

New Zealand, as if to reassure the Australians their score was not as bad as it looked, batted extremely cautiously. Their 93 runs were scored from 59 overs — 13.4 more than Australia faced in scoring 110 yesterday.

Wright's innings of 36 was indicative of the scoring rate. He faced 149 balls in 221 minutes and hit three fours.

Australian captain Allan Border, keen to vary his attack, put himself on for five overs. He was rewarded by catching Jones for 18 off his own left-arm off-cutter.

Yesterday champion New Zealand pace bowler Richard Hadlee made a spectacular start to his last home Test match, taking five wickets as Australia collapsed for 110.

Australia inched past their previous lowest Test score against New Zealand of 103, posted in Auckland four seasons ago.

Hadlee, who last month became the only person to take 400 Test wickets, made the most of a moist and slow-playing basin reserve wicket to spearhead a professional bowling and fielding effort by New Zealand.

The Australian batsmen struggled in difficult batting conditions after captain Allan Border surprisingly elected to bat first. The match was shortened by one session to allow ground staff to mop up after torrential rain earlier this week.

Wright said later he was relieved to have lost the toss, although he said he probably would have gambled and bowled first. "But it was six of one and a half dozen of the other," he told reporters. "The wicket was damp in patches yesterday, but it had dried considerably today."

"So I don't think it was an error at all on Allan's part."

Hadlee, who is playing his last Test in New Zealand, took his 100th five-wicket bag in a first class match.

But it was Danny Morrison, the pretender to Hadlee's title as New Zealand's main strike bowler who made the first breakthrough. He bowled opening batsman Geoff Marsh in the second over of the match when the score was four.

Hadlee struck five runs later, trapping David Boon leg before wicket, before Morrison did the same to Mark Taylor and then Border to have Australia 12 for four.

Australia still had a chance to rescue their innings with in-form Dean Jones. He hit a typically aggressive 20 and was the only Australian confident enough to bat out of his crease before driving a comfortable catch to Wright at mid-off from Martin Snedden's bowling.

His 45 took him only 64 balls and included four boundaries and a straight six off Capel. He was bowled trying to reverse sweep Eddie Hemmings.

Greenidge, who pulled both Capel and Gooch for sixes as well as hitting eight fours, faced 122 balls and gave one chance when on 24, Capel dropping a fierce return catch.

He was finally out leg before to Frasier trying to pull when only 15 were required for victory.

The only other success for England came when Richie Richardson, who scored seven, drove a half-volley from Gladstone Small straight to mid-off.

England's opening pair survived until the seventh over when Wayne Larkins received a brutal lifter from Ian Bishop who took an easy return catch. In

Snedden grabbed his second wicket soon after when Ian Healy was bowled hitting across the line.

The rest of the innings belonged to Hadlee as he took the last four Australian wickets. Bowling straight on a demanding length, he continued to get assistance from the difficult batting surface.

All-rounder Steve Waugh and offspinner Peter Taylor were the only other batsman to provide resistance.

Waugh made 25 before having his offstump knocked over by Hadlee, while Taylor was brilliantly caught by Wright off Hadlee after top scoring with 29.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings	
M. Taylor lbw b Morrison	4
G. Marsh b Morrison	4
D. Boon lbw b Hadlee	0
A. Border lbw b Morrison	1
D. Jones c Wright b Snedden	20
S. Waugh c Hadlee	25
I. Healy b Snedden	0
P. Taylor c Wright b Hadlee	29
G. Campbell lbw b Hadlee	4
C. Rackemann not out	4
T. Alderman lbw b Hadlee	13
Extras (b-6 nb-7)	5
Total (from 45.2 overs)	110
Fall of wickets: 1-42 2-83 3-94 4-125 5-96	

6-44 7-70 8-87 9-103

2-103 10-103 11-150 12-151 13-161

21-13 22-13 23-13 24-13 25-13

2-10 3-10 4-10 5-10 6-10 7-10 8-10

9-10 10-10 11-10 12-10 13-10 14-10

15-10 16-10 17-10 18-10 19-10 20-10

21-10 22-10 23-10 24-10 25-10

26-10 27-10 28-10 29-10 30-10 31-10

32-10 33-10 34-10 35-10 36-10 37-10

38-10 39-10 40-10 41-10 42-10 43-10

44-10 45-10 46-10 47-10 48-10 49-10

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Uttley and McGeechan behind unique rugby union showdown

LONDON, March 16. (Reuters): Roger Uttley and Ian McGeechan, close friends on two successful British Lions tours, will be the man behind a unique rugby union showdown tomorrow.

The two men were both members of the 1974 Lions who beat South Africa 3-0 and they combined last year to coach the successful Lions side in Australia.

Now they coach opposing sides as England meet Scotland at Murrayfield in a match which will for the first time decide the Five Nations' Championship, the Grand Slam and the triple crown.

"One of the features of the present England side is its capacity to play good all-action football," Uttley said this week.

"They have proved themselves hungry

for victory and want to put the record straight after so many past disappointing performances."

McGeechan said the match was an "unbelievable climax."

"I have never coached any team to lose," he added. "My hope is that we take advantage of our chances."

England start clear favourites after a season in which they have developed their best side for a decade.

They handed Wales their biggest defeat ever in the championship and France their heaviest championship loss for 10 years.

With one match to go they have already exceeded their previous highest points total and fullback Simon Hodgkinson is

within six points of overtaking Dusty Hare's record total for a championship season.

Uttley, a member of the last England side to win the Grand Slam 10 years ago, believes the present side is superior.

"There is a more assertive and competitive edge, underpinned by fitness, compared with 1980 and these guys can

play for longer periods.

"I was fit according to the standards of the day but the standards have uplifted over the years," he said.

At the centre of their new found confidence is flyhalf Rob Andrew, who has blossomed after his success with the Lions in Australia.

He is reunited with scrumhalf Richard

Hill, a far more polished player now after three years out of the England side, and the two have quickly established themselves as the best halfback pair in Europe.

"It helps, perhaps, that we both feel we might be finished for England," Andrew says. "But back we came, didn't we? And I cannot tell you how much better I feel the second time around."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton Team of Four bridge game held on Tuesday, N/S:

1. Dr Adel & Doma Matterny
2. Tiab & Sherin
3. Dr Saad & Gbani
- E/W:
1. Sabri & Oskay
2. Carsten & Drester
3. D'Souza & Pereira

On Friday, March 23, at 3.00 pm a general body meeting will be held after the tournament to elect new committee. Prizes will be distributed.

NBA games

NEW YORK, March 16. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played on

Thursday:

Cleveland	112	LA Lakers	96
Detroit	110	San Antonio	98
Minnesota	102	New York	82
Milwaukee	96	Washington	91
Utah	117	Seattle	95
Portland	128	Golden State	121
Houston	92	Sacramento	86

Ghedina wins

ARE, Sweden, March 16, (AP): Christian Ghedina of Italy won the men's penultimate downhill of the season yesterday and Austrian veteran Helmut Hoeflner clinched the season title in that discipline by placing third.

Chief executive

KEY BISCAYNE, FLA., March 16. (Reuters): The Association of Tennis Professionals announced yesterday that Hamilton Jordan was stepping down as chief executive of the governing body of the men's professional tour in favour of a company executive, Mark Miles.

Title fight

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, March 16. (Reuters): Australian Jeff Harding defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight title on Sunday against Argentine Nestor Giovannini, whom hazard clinched the season title in that discipline by placing third.

African Cup

ALGIERS, March 16. (Reuters): Zambia beat Senegal 1-0 on Thursday to clinch third place in the 17th African Nations Cup. Senegal missed three chances in the first half when Moussa N'Dao, Abdoulaye Diallo and Sylvestre Coly respectively found themselves alone in front of Zambian goalkeeper David Chabala but failed to score.

NHL matches

NEW YORK, March 16. (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) Games played yesterday:

Boston	3	Winnipeg	3
Philadelphia	5	New York	4
Pittsburgh	6	Detroit	1
Chicago	6	Quebec	3
Vancouver	6	St. Louis	5
Calgary	5	New Jersey	4

World Cup

WELLINGTON, March 16. (Reuters): The New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) has re-appointed Alex Wyllie to coach the All Blacks through the 1991 World Cup.

Evergreen outplay Lanka Colts for title

Babar voted Man of the Match

EVERGREEN cricketers added another trophy to their cabinet when they thrashed Lanka Colts by six wickets yesterday at the EPI Ground to clinch the Bhutto Memorial Cricket Trophy.

Hiran won the toss for Lanka Colts and opted to bat through Nalaka and Ramzan but with the total at 38, Nalaka was bowled by Asad Baig. Chris added fifty runs before becoming the second victim of Asad Baig, caught by Shahid for well-made 22. Ramzan was unlucky to be run-out for 49 well-scored runs.

Saneha and Ralph gave a late boost to the total as they scored 82 not-out and 36 runs respectively. Saneha's excellent innings was studded with two sixes and six boundaries.

When the allotted 45 overs were completed Lanka Colts' total stood at 247 for six wickets. Hiran 25 was the other worth-mentioning batsman. For Evergreen, skipper Asad Baig chipped in with two wickets which Anjum, Shehzad Jr and Jamil Khan bagged a piece each.

Requiring a run-rate of 5.5 per over, Evergreen lost opener Shehzad Sr (17) with the score at 32 and Jamil Khan was well taken by Hamid just after six runs. Asad Baig joined Babar and both realising the difficult situation decided to put their heads down and never spare any loose delivery. Both placed the ball well and always waited for the right ball before smashing it. The partnership yielded 122 valuable runs before Ralph dislodged Baber's stumps when he was on 87. His magnificent innings contained a six and four hits to the



Asad Baig (right) lifts the champions trophy.

fence.

Nalaka created a bit of scare by having Asad Baig caught by Ralph. He hit 44 runs. After Baig's dismissal, experienced Anjum Raza and young Sikander did not allow the bowlers to dominate the proceedings and scored briskly. Anjum was more aggressive and cracked four towering sixes and two boun-

daries as he raced to 53 unbeaten runs. Sikander hit three boundaries in his 28 runs. Evergreen surpassed their opponents' total in 41.5 overs with six wickets to spare.

The tournament had been organised by the Gulf Cricket League and sponsored by People's Club, Kuwait. The final was witnessed by a large crowd,

including the ambassadors of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

At the end of the match GCL secretary Sajid Raza and GCL president Nayyer Rizvi gave the details of the tournament.

Sri Lankan Ambassador Latif Sharifuddin awarded the winners trophy to Evergreen captain Asad Baig. He also distributed the prizes to the players of Evergreen Club. Pakistan's Ambassador Zahid Saeed gave the prizes to Lanka Colts' cricketers.

Both the winners and runners-up trophies were donated by Rafique Mirza secretary Peoples Club. Special prizes were awarded to Babar and Nalaka. Babar of Evergreen got an air ticket to Islamabad for being voted Man of the Match as Nalaka was given the Man of the Tournament prize for his performance throughout the tourney.

The umpires and the scorers were also given special prizes while one special prize was given to the son of late Manzar Hussain, who died during the tournament. The respected dignitaries were presented with plaques by Dr Riaz Mahesar.

The president Peoples' Club ladies wing, Tanzila Y. Dogar distributed the gifts amongst the children present.

Peoples Club sports chairman Yunus Chaudhry thanked all the ambassadors for gracing the occasion and special thanks were extended to Ashraf Khan of Kifco and G.A. Allana for their contributions towards the success of the tournament.

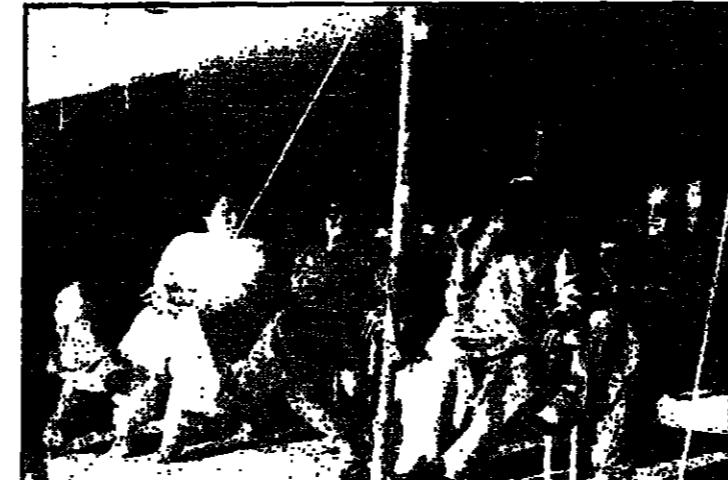
The match was supervised by Haji Sarfraz and Tehzeeb-ul-Hassan.



The winners with guests and other officials. (Photos by Javed Basra)



The Colts captain collects the runners-up trophy.



Some of the spectators at the match.

Capriati gets taste of the big time

ATP names Becker Player of the Year

MIAMI, March 16. (Reuters): Wimbledon and US Open champion Boris Becker of West Germany received 1989 Player of the Year honours at the ATP awards dinner last night.

The 22-year-old world number two, who won five singles titles and posted a 14-3 record against other top 10-ranked players, earned the top individual award by a vote of the ATP's 500 members.

In addition to his two Grand Slam titles last year, Becker led West Germany to a second successive Davis Cup title over Sweden.

American Michael Chang, whose ranking jumped from 30th to fifth in the world last year, was named Most Improved Player of 1989. Chang became the youngest male ever to win a Grand Slam tournament with his stunning French Open title at 17.

Chang won the Best Newcomer of the Year award in 1988, an honour that went to Spain's Sergi Bruguera yesterday. Bruguera rose more than 300 places on the rankings computer to finish 1989 26th in the world.

Other awards went to Americans Rick Leach and Jim Pugh for Doubles Team of the Year and Goran Prpic of Yugoslavia for Comeback Player of the Year.

World number three Stefan Edberg of Sweden won the Sportsmanship Award.

Jennifer Capriati, the 13-year-old who cut her teeth as a



Becker: the best in 1989

professional by reaching the Boca Raton final last week, gets her first taste of the big time in the International Players' Championships which was to start in Key Biscayne, Fla., this evening.

The \$1.2 million event, which has pretensions to be regarded as the fifth Grand Slam, has been somewhat undermined by the men's tour's decision to cut it from 14 to 10 days and from 128 to 96 players.

But it is still one of the strongest events on the circuit and will give junior world number one Capriati valuable experience of a major senior tournament ahead of the Grand Slams.

Capriati, who grew up on Florida's tennis courts and is already being hailed as a successor to the retired Chris Evert, has been prepared to compete in the qualifying rounds but after her Boca Raton success has accepted a "wild card" entry into the main draw.

"I love to play in Florida because I have lived here all my life," Capriati said of her decision to include the event in the 12 she has elected to play this year. "If I play a really good player, that will be fun."

She is certain to be the centre of attention after her spectacular debut in which she became the youngest player to reach the final of a professional event, only losing after two tough sets to Argentine Gabriela Sabatini on Sunday.

The absence of the world's top

two women's players — Steffi Graf has a hand injury and Martina Navratilova is resting — will keep the spotlight trained on the youngster still 13 days off her 14th birthday.

Two of the world's top men are also absent — Wimbledon and

and Milosav Meier, both of Czechoslovakia, Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Americans John McEnroe, Andre Agassi, Aaron Krickstein and Tim Mayotte have all decided to take part despite the high heat and humidity that usually plague the tournament.

The International Players' Championships were scaled down under the new ATP Tour scheduled, but tournament founder and chairman Butch Buchholz said he was pleased with the result.

"This is the players' event and has been created basically for them. This will be the best field we've ever had (on the men's side), and we are excited to be in a prominent position on the international tennis calendar," he said.

Sabatini, who defeated Evert in the final last year, said she was looking forward to a smaller draw because of the heat.

"If I don't have to play seven matches because I get a bye, that doesn't bother me. By the end of the second week, the heat hurts your game," she said.

"Every tournament is important," Lendl said. "This one is a little more important because it is not just one week, and most of the top players play in it. It is somewhere between a Grand Slam and a (one-week) tournament, but it is the biggest tournament since the Australian Open."



A large number of local and foreign companies and establishments specialised in the manufacture and trade of agriculture and food materials and machinery.

Visiting hours:
from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
and from 4.00 to 9.00 pm
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